FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 FEBRUARY 1986

### Israeli Search Operation in Lebanon

Israel will not cease its efforts to locate two IDF soldiers who were kidnapped in southern Lebanon 17 February, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. A large IDF force continued to conduct searches for the two Israelis 18 February, the radio noted, adding that the IDF has captured two persons involved in the kidnapping. The two Israelis were kidnapped near the southern village of Bayt Yahun during an ambush in which two army of Southern Lebanon soldiers were killed, the radio revealed.

On the Lebanese side, the "Islamic Resistance" claimed responsibility for the ambush in a statement reported by AFP. Resistance sources cited by KUNA said the two Israelis have been moved to "somewhere in Lebanon" where they are receiving treatment for serious wounds. Meanwhile, Beirut radio reported that local resistance men attempted to resist the Israeli sweep through southern villages 17 and 18 February, stating that seven resistance fighters were killed or wounded in clashes with the Israelis in the Srifa area, east of Tyre. The radio also asserted that an Israeli helicopter was downed near Srifa, though monitored Israeli media have not confirmed the claim.

### Iran-Iraq War

Three Iraqi columns are "tightening their noose" around Iranian troops trapped in a narrow pocket in the Al-Faw area, INA asserted in an 18 February report on the military situation. Iraq has cut supply lines and reinforcements to the Iranian force by launching air strikes against six important bridges inside Iran and by destroying two Iranian supply ships in the Gulf, the Iraqi agency said. Earlier, INA reported that Iraqi aircraft hit Khark Island and the Ganaveh pipeline intersection 16 February, adding that Iran's "confirmed" losses in the week since the start of its offensive included 6 aircraft, 84 gunboats, and 22 tanks.

In contrast, IRNA claimed that Iranian forces in the Al-Faw area continued their advance the night of 17 February, killing or wounding 400 Iraqis. Iranian troops earlier seized an Iraqi radar warning system north of Al-Faw which Iraq had used to guide its aircraft for attacks on shipping, according to an Iranian military communique cited by IRNA 17 February. The communique also updated Iran's tally of Iraqi losses since the start of the Iranian offensive, claiming that over 14,000 Iraqis have been killed or injured and that 40 Iraqi warplanes and helicopters have been shot down. Iranian officials cited by the agency denied Iraq's claim to have downed 4 Iranian aircraft 15-17 February and dismissed "baseless" Iraqi claims about Majnun Island. Iraq had announced in a military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 15 February that its forces killed 4,405 Iranians in recent battles to "liberate and defend" the Majnun oil field.

On the diplomatic level, Tehran radio disclosed 18 February that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has sent a message to the UN secretary general reaffirming Iran's willingness to study any proposal by the secretary general connected with the war. Nevertheless, Velayati called on the Security Council to condemn Iraq as the "aggressor" and the radio reported earlier that Iran will not attend the Security Council meeting unless the Council condemns Iraq for invading Iran and for violating the June 1984 moratorium on attacks against residential areas. Meanwhile, INA noted Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's arrival in New York to attend the Security Council meeting following his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow 17 February. Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah in Baghdad, INA noted. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had earlier received Prince Sa'ud and Shaykh Sabah in Damascus, according to SANA, and KUNA subsequently cited Shaykh Sabah's statement that his visit to Damascus and Baghdad was aimed at bringing Iraqi and Syrian viewpoints closer.

### Iran

A bomb exploded at a bus terminal in southern Tehran 17 February, killing one person and wounding six others, IRNA reported, adding that "agents of imperialism" were responsible.

### Chad-Libya

French Defense Minister Paul Quiles held Libya responsible for the 17 February air attack on the runway of Ndjamena Airport, AFP reported, and he disclosed that three French aircraft arrived at the airport in the wake of the raid as part of a "deterrent" force which France is sending to Chad. A Tupolev 22 escorted by fighters had bombed the airport from a high altitude in apparent reprisal for the 16 February attack by French warplanes on the Libyan-Built GUNT base at Ouadi Doum, according to AFP. For Libya's part, JANA said the GUNT's air force was responsible for the raid on Ndjamena Airport, adding that sources close to the GUNT said this was in retaliation for the French attack on the "civilian" airfield at Ouadi Doum, which is used for transporting famine relief supplies. In contrast, the Chadian Government expressed appreciation for the French action against Ouadi Doum in a statement reported by Ndjamena radio, asserting that the airfield was one of two main bases from which Libyan forces launched their recent attacks on Chadian Government positions. A Chadian military communique carried by the radio, meanwhile, reaffirmed Chadian claims to have repulsed the attacks by the "invading Libyan Army" 10-13 February, stating that Chadian troops inflicted over 1,000 casualties and captured over 950 enemy soldiers in "this great victory over Al-Qadhdhafi."

JANA stated in a 16 February commentary that Libya was "surprised" by the renewed fighting in Chad and does "not know" who started it. An *AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* editorial cited by the agency attributed the French intervention in Chad

to U.S. influence, claiming that France has become "the servant of America in Africa."

### Egypt-Jordan-PLO

Palestinian-Jordanian talks on a Middle East settlement will resume in Amman "in the next few days," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak announced 18 February, AFP reported. In earlier developments, MENA reported that Mubarak and PLO executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held further talks in Cairo 16 and 18 February. 'Arafat and Mubarak discussed a PLO proposal that Egypt, the PLO, and Jordan form a "unified Arab delegation" to attend an international peace conference on the Middle East, QNA reported citing the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD*. Following a meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi 15 February, 'Arafat said the recent U.S. statement on the Palestinians is "a step forward when compared to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," MENA reported.

### Israel-Egypt

The Egyptian delegation to the Taba talks returned to Cairo from Israel 16 February following the conclusion of the second round of discussions, MENA reported. Egyptian delegation leader Nabil al-'Arabi said that the formulation of the "arbitral compromise" was discussed at length but that issues requiring further negotiation still exist, MENA added. An Israeli Foreign Ministry source told *THE JERUSALEM POST* that the negotiations are proceeding "exactly as expected" and that the next round of talks will resume on or around 3 March.

### PDRY-USSR

Aden radio reported the arrival in Moscow 15 February of General Secretary of the YSP Central Committee 'Ali Salim al-Bayd.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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### Ministry Hits 'Team-Spirit' Exercise, Backs DPRK

*LD161826 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] In reply to a question by a BIA correspondent concerning the recent joint U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers, "Team Spirit-86," which began on 10 February, 1986 in South Korea, a spokesman of the DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry said: In pursuing an aggressive and warmongering policy, the Reagan administration, while speaking of international peace and security, in reality engages in blackmail and provocation and endangers regional and international peace by setting out military maneuvers in various parts of the world, including Libya. International imperialism, headed by the United States, by starting these sorts of maneuvers, which have no other aim but intensifying the arms race and intimidating independent and progressive countries, utilizes them as tools of pressure against progressive countries and national liberation movements. The recent U.S. maneuvers, in cooperation with the South Korean regime, are a threat not just against the DPRK, but are in complete discord with the statements of that country's authorities in connection with the reduction of regional tensions. The DRA resolutely condemns these sorts of provocative and hostile actions by the United States and its puppet regime in South Korea, expresses support for the proposals of the DPRK concerning avoiding large military maneuvers in the Korean Peninsula and its surrounding, and the righteous proposals of the DPRK for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

### Trade Accord With USSR Signed in Moscow

*LD151941 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Excerpt] The volume of trade between the DRA and the Soviet Union is to increase by 30 percent. This is contained in a trade agreement signed yesterday in Moscow between Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Boris Aristov and DRA Commerce Minister Mohammad Khan Jalalar. According to this agreement the Soviet Union will export to Afghanistan transport and agricultural vehicles, raw materials, fuel, some agricultural products and grain, and will import from Afghanistan agricultural products, various raw materials and consumer goods. The Soviet foreign trade minister said: Trade relations between the DRA and the Soviet Union have improved since 1976 in accordance with long-term agreements. The successful implementation of these agreements has provided a good base for the implementation of the third agreement, which has just been signed. The volume of foreign trade between the two countries has increased threefold during the last 5 years.

### Counterrevolutionaries Surrender in Shindand

*LD160749 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0417 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Excerpts] Vygry 15, BAKHTAR: A group of 85 armed persons, ex-members of the Jamiat criminal band, along with their weapons, surrendered themselves to government authorities of the DRA in Shindand District of Herat Province, bordering Iran. A large number of disillusioned afghans had surrendered themselves to the state organs of the DRA recently. Over 2100 of armed Afghans have taken the side of the revolution in Badghis Province alone in the past nine months of the current Afghan year.

### Clashes Between Counterrevolutionaries Reported

*GF161111 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Excerpt] At least one person was killed and three others injured during a recent armed clash in Baku Camp No 2 between the members of Jami'at-e [Jami'at-e Islami] and the Gulbaddin band on the distribution of rations, reports reaching here say today. According to reports, during another clash between the two bands a Pakistani official on duty was severely injured. In another incident, an armed attack was made upon a car carrying Seyyed Ahmad Gailani, one of the leaders of the counterrevolution, through Peshawar resulting in injury to the car's driver (?Sharif).

### Afghan Mujahidin Report New Soviet Offensive

*GF161005 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] Afghan Press Agency [AAP] yesterday reported that since Thursday the invading Soviet forces and the agent Afghan forces have been launching a large offensive against a strategic mujahidin center in Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan 20 km from the Pakistani border. The Afghan mujahidin indicated that they have lost some martyrs and that they have killed at lease 10 Soviet and DRA troops, including a DRA officer, and destroyed a large number of armored vehicles.

### Riyadh Reports Afghan Mujahidin Launch Offensive

*GF170657 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] The Afghan Government agent troops and the invading Soviet forces suffered approximately 140 soldiers killed or wounded, the destruction of 20 armored vehicle, and the downing of a Soviet fighter at the hands of the Afghan mujahidin. The Afghan Islamic news agency, which carried this news item, reported that the fighter — which was hit by the mujahidin's antiaircraft fire in the region of Nazian, where battles are currently raging — crashed as it approched Jalalabad Airport. This resulted in the deaths of 4 Soviet advisers who were onboard. The Afghan mujahidin succeeded, last Thursday, in liberating a part of the (?Towr Ghar) heights following an offensive they launched against the government and Soviet garrison in Khost — which is considered a strategic post in the region. During the offensive, 21 mujahidin were martyred, including Commander Wali Mohammad Khan. This offensive comes in retaliation for an offensive launched by the communist forces on 27 January upon strongholds of the mujahidin in Nazian region, located 60 kms southeast of Jalalabad, to control the region and reach the strongholds of the mujahidin and the tribes who fight the agent Afghan regime.

## Sikh Religious Convention Held in Punjab

### Militants Arrested on Convention Eve

*HK160302 Hong Kong AFP in English 0051 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Excerpts] Chandigarh, India, Feb 15 (AFP) — An undetermined number of Sikh militants were arrested in Punjab state today on the eve of a crucial moderate-called Sikh religious convention. As the state administration geared up for the Sunday regligious congregation that is expected to give a rebuff to recent moves made by militants in the troubled state, Chief Minister and moderate leader Surjit Singh Barnala hinted that he would not tolerate the activities of militants opposed to his fledgling six-month-old government.

Informed sources here said a large number of militants belonging to the All-India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), united Akali Dal and Damdami Taksal, a religious body, had been held in an overnight swoop. Among those arrested was the widow of Beant Singh, the slain alleged assassin of Indira Gandhi, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) reported. However there was no official confirmation of the report.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said more than 4,000 policemen and paramilitary troops had been deployed at Anadpur Sahib, the town where the convention is to be held.

Meanwhile, a PTI report said more than 250 Sikhs today surrounded a police station in Gurdaspur, a border town that is considered a hotbed of militant activity, to protest the arrest of a Sikh farmer yesterday. The protestors claim Paramajit Singh, who was injured in firing by personnel of the Border Security Force, was falsely implicated as a terrorist.

Punjab Chief Minister Barnala said on radio and television that his government would not hesitate to take "some very harsh steps" against people who he said were "either misguided or agents of the anti-state forces in the country."

"Before taking any step, I always ponder seriously so that it should not bring sorrow and suffering to any home. But it seems certain elements have tried to interpret my deep concern for the sufferings of my people as a sign of weakness", Mr Barnala said.

He said these elements had "declared a war against...a wounded and bleeding Punjab."

"The fight is between the Punjabis and a handful of traitors to the state", he said and declared: "If they continue to play into the hands of our enemies, my government will be constrained to take some very harsh steps."

### Convention Opens

*HK160718 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Feb 16 (AFP) — A crucial moderate-called Sikh religious convention began in Anandpur Sahib in Punjab today amid tight security, with thousands of police and paramilitary personnel ringing the historic city, reports said. The "Sarbat Khalsa" convention is expected to give a rebuff to recent moves by militants in the troubled predominantly-Sikh northern state. At least 5,000 police and para-military personnel ringed the city, and the *HINDUSTAN TIMES* said security personnel armed with sten-guns had been positioned at strategic points.

Militants had warned of a showdown at the Golden Temple, which was taken over by militant factions at a similar convention in January, and backed the threat with a series of shootings of moderate leaders.

### Resolutions Passed

*BK161616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] The Sarbat Khalsa [Highest Sikh congregational assembly] in Anandpur Sahib in Punjab today rejected the decisions taken at the convention organized by the All India Sikh Students Federation and the Damdami Taksal [Sikh Religious Educational Institute] in Amyitsar on the 26th of last month. The Sarbat Khalsa was convened by the Akal Takht [highest religious seat of the Sikhs] chief, Jathedar Kirpal Singh. It was held at Takht Kesgarh Sahib.

A resolution adopted at today's meeting directed the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee] and the Akali Dal to take suitable action to end the illegal interference in the Golden Temple and for the restoration of the violated Sikh traditions. The resolution said any action taken by the SGPC and the Akali Dal in this connection will have the complete approval and support of the entire Sikh world.

Through another resolution, the Sarbat Khalsa expressed deep concern at the activities of what they called a gang of killers who have committed heinous crimes recently. The resolution said that Guru Govind Singh spent all his life in serving the innocent and the poor.

The Sarbat Khalsa directed the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, who is also the president of the Akali Dal, to take steps for the implementation of the Punjab Accord in letter and in spirit. It called upon the government to take effective measures for the release and rehabilitation of the victims of November 1984 riot.

The resolutions were moved by the Golden Temple head priest, Giani Sahib Singh. They were endorsed by five high priests individually. Then these were put before the congregation for approval. The high priests are: Jathedar Kirpal Singh of Akal Takht, Jathedar Harcharan Singh Mahalon of Kesgarh Sihib; Giani Joginder Singh Mohni of Sat Shree Hazur Sahib, Sant Lakha Singh of Sat Damdama Sahib and Giani Preetam Singh, head priest of Akal Takht.

Addressing the congregation, the SGPC president, Mr G.S. Tohra, declared that he has handed over his resignation to the Akali Dal president. Mr Barnala said he has received the resignation and will be sending it to the executive of the SGPC for its consideration.

### Criticism of Resolution

*BK171614 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has criticized the resolution on the Punjab accord passed at the Sarbat Khalsa in Anandpur Sahib yesterday. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, Mr Bhajan Lal said that the resolution is not in national interest and is aimed at sabotaging the accord. He reiterated that Chandigarh could be given to Punjab only when Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab are simultaneously transferred to Haryana.

### Meeting To Discuss Resolutions

*BK170926 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0830 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that a meeting of the senior SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak — Sikh Temples Management Committee] and Akali Dal leaders is being convened soon. This is to discuss the suggestions made at yesterday's Sarbat Khalsa at Takht Kesgarh Sahib and evolve a suitable strategy to tackle them . Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this morning, Mr Barnala declared that he will do his best to fulfill the responsibility entrusted to him at Sarbat Khalsa. He said in this endeavor he would need maximum cooperation of the people from all walks of life. Mr Barnala said all the suggestions made at Sarbat Khalsa congregation and elsewhere by different leaders including the sending of jathas [religious groups] to the Golden Temple complex will be given due thought at the meeting.

## Police Fire on Violent Mob in Delhi, One Killed

*BK141555 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] In Delhi, one person was killed and another injured when police resorted to firing to disperse a violent mob this afternoon. Nine policemen were also injured. Curfew has been imposed in the entire walled city, including Daryaganj, Hauz Kazi, Kamla Market, Jama Masjid, and Kowali areas. Prohibitory orders have been promulgated in the entire capital for 10 days as a precautionary measure. According to the police, the situation is tense but well under control. A large number of miscreants have been taken into custody. Reports say the trouble started when some people tried to force shopkeepers to down their shutters to observe a bundh [strike] today.

### Curfew Imposed

*BK141246 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1230 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] In Delhi, there were incidents of violence in parts of the old city following which curfew has been imposed in theese areas. Prohibitory orders will be in force in the whole of the capital for 10 days as a precautionary measure. The areas brought under curfew include Daryaganj, Hauz Kazi, Kamla Market, Jama Masjid and Kotwali. According to the police, the situation is tense but well under control.

Tear gas was used to disperse an unruly mob and a large number of miscreants were taken into custody. Reports say the trouble started when some people tried to force shopkeepers to down their shutters to observe a bundh [strike] stody.

### Official Inquiry Ordered

*BK151621 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Excerpt] The Delhi lieutenant governor has ordered a magisterial enquiry into yesterday's incidents in some parts of old Delhi. Mr K.S. Mehra, additional district magistrate of Delhi, will conduct the enquiry and will submit his report within 15 days. He will ascertain the sequence of events leading to the police firing and the extent of casualties as a result of firing. He will also determine whether the use of force by the polcie was justified and commensurate with the need for the same.

Meanwhile, the situation in the walled city continues to be under control and no untoward incident has been reported. The indefinite curfew continues in the areas where it was imposed yesterday following violent incidents. The authorities are reviewing the situation. So far, more than 200 persons have been arrested.

### Curfew Relaxed 2 Hours

*BK160825 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0240 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Excerpt] Curfew has been relaxed for 2 hours from 0800 to 1000 this morning in some parts of Old Delhi which witnessed violent incidents on Friday. The situation in the curfew-bound areas is normal and there has been no further untoward incident.

### Curfew Lifted in Parts of Delhi

*BK171630 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Curfew has been lifted completely from some parts of old Delhi as the situation returned to normal. These areas are: Turkman Gate to Delhi Gate, (Nukkar Faiz Bazar), and Ajmeri Gate to Gali Farashkhana. Curfew in other areas will be relaxed for 4 hours from 0700 to 1100 tomorrow. The curfew was relaxed today for 3 hours from 1500. The situation is normal and no incident has been reported. The Delhi Pradesh [state] Congress Committee-I [DPCC-I] today held a peace march in the afected areas. The DPCC-I president, Mr Tajdar Babar, who participated in the march, appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony.

## Sikhs Kill Congress Party Member in Punjab

*HK171346 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 17 (AFP) — Suspected Sikh separatists shot dead a member of the ruling Congress (I) Party in the troubled state of Punjab today as Hindus protested the slaying

of a fundamentalist leader, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said. The official news agency said Gian Chand, a member of the Congress Party was shot and killed at Tarn Taran, 25 kilometres (15.6 miles) from the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Meanwhile, Hindu traders in Jandiala Town downed their shutters today to protest yesterday's killing of a Hindu fundamentalist leader Chaman Lal Sharma. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said Hindus blocked roads and staged demonstrations in Jandiala today to vent their anger over the slaying.

**Jammu Mob Dispersed With Teargas, Baton Charge**
*BK171621 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] In Jammu, police resorted to lathi [baton] charge and teargassing today to disperse a violent mob protesting against the raising of provocative slogans by another group earlier in the day. According to official sources, about 50 policemen including a deputy superintendent of police were injured in stonethrowing by a violent mob. The state government has ordered the closure of all educational insitutions in the Jammu municipal limits for 1 week from tomorrow. The situation is reported to be under control.

**Violence Continues**
*BK180911 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0830 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] In Jammu, the police again used teargas today to disperse violent groups indulging in stone throwing. The trouble began yesterday when one group raised provocative slogans against another group. Shops in the two main bazaars continue to remain closed today also. However, life in other parts of the city is reported to be normal. City and rural transport services were running as usual. According to official sources, 30 persons have been arrested so far. All educational institutions are closed in Jammu today.

**Police Clash with Residents in Lucknow; 60 Arrested**
*BK141605 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] In Lucknow, some people, including policemen, were injured and three police vehicles damaged in a clash between police and members of a community in the Chalk area this afternoon. The police have arrested 60 people. Police patrolling in the affected areas has been intensified, and the situation in the town is under control.

**50 Injured in Clash With Police In Srinagar**
*BK160823 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0240 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] In Srinagar, more than 50 people were injured when an unruly mob clashed with the police yesterday. When lathi [baton] charge and teargas failed, the police resorted to firing in which one person was seriously injured. The situation is reported to be under control.

**Four Killed in Sehore in Hindu-Moslem Violence**
*HK170702 Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Bhopal, India, Feb 17 (Afp) — Authorities today ordered police to shoot troublemakers on sight at Sehore where Hindu-Moslem violence left at least four dead yesterday, the area police chief said. Three of the victims died of wounds received in firing and one fell victim to a bomb attack, Ram Lal Yadav said.

Officials here in the capital of Madhya Pradesh state said the clashes occurred at Sehore, 42 kilometres (26 miles) from here, when Moslems with rods, stones, swords, guns and bombs attacked a Hindu procession. The Hindus were celebrating a court order giving them the rights to a disputed shrine in the adjoining Uttar Pradesh state.

Authorities also clamped a 24-hour curfew on the 300,0000 population town since late yesterday to halt any further violence, Mr Yadav said. All educational institutions were ordered closed and the government announced an enquiry into the riots, officials said. Police described the sitaution at Sehore as "tense, but under control."

Sehore is the third town to be affected by communal clashes following the recent court order.

Hindus believe the temple was started by Lord Rama, one of the 336 million Hindu gods and goddess. Some believe that the temple site was th, birthplace of Lord Rama.

Violence broke out in the Indian capital last week over the same issue when Moslems called for a strike and forcibly closed shops owned by Hindus. One person was killed there and a curfew was imposed in a district of the capital.

More than 100 people, were injured Saturday in Kashmir state's capital, Srinagar, when police opened fire to check violence triggered by the court decision.

**Curfew Imposed in Varanasi After Violent Incident**
*BK180305 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0240 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] In Varanasi, indefinite curfew was clamped since yesterday following an incident of brickbatting in Adampura area. The district magistrate told UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] that the trouble started after the arrest of a youth on charges of misconduct. Police have arrested about 200 people as a precautionary measure. All educational institutions in the city have been closed for 3 days.

**Three Pakistanis Captured, Accused of Espionage**
*BK171631 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] captured three Pak nationals in Anupgarh area of Rajasthan yesterday. According to an official release, the preliminary investigations have disclosed that they had crossed over to India for espionage purpose. BSF also apprehended three Indian nationals.

**Commentary Views Outcome of Bhagat's U.S. Trip**
*BK121423 Delhi General Overseas Service in English*
*1340 GMT 12 Feb 86*

[PTI correspondent S. Dharamrajan commentary: "India and the United States"]

[Text] Over the past year or 2 the ties between India and the United States have grown stronger. American and Indian businessmen are actively exploring new collaborative commercial ventures. Increased transfers of advanced technology to India are underway. Scientific and technological cooperation is on the upswing. Exchanges in a number of fields including agriculture, education, and art have enhanced mutual understanding. That then was the setting for the sixth meeting of the India-U.S. joint commission last week.

The external affairs minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat, traveled to Washington for the meeting at which he sat with Mr George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state. The two were not there merely to review the progress of collaborative activities about which both have reasons to be happy, the two as co-chairmen of the joint commission were also to provide direction for future India-U.S. cooperation which they did.

Predictably, the visit also gave Mr Bhagat useful opportunity for talks with President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George Bush and senior U.S. congressional leaders. They exchanged notes on bilateral relations and reviewed regional and international situation.

The one issue Mr Bhagat discussed with nearly all of them was Pakistan, specifically, the U.S. military assistance to the Zia regime. On their part, the Americans welcomed efforts by India and Pakistan to normalize their relations. But on this occasion, Mr Bhagat did not mince words. He told his hosts Washington's arms aid to Islamabad was what came in the way of fuller normalization of relations in the subcontinent.

The concern was heightened in recent weeks by reports that Pakistan was pressing for new U.S. arms assistance to the tune of $6.5 billion. Whether or not Islamabad gets it is a moot point, what with the tight budgetary restrictions in the United States. But judging by reports, the well-reasoned arguments of Mr Bhagat would appear to have gone home to some extent at least. India's position is quite clear on this. The induction of sophisticated arms will only serve to create tension and confrontation and affect peace and stability in the region. To be sure, no government in India could afford to lower its guard. An arms race is an inevitable result of the U.S. policies and India will have to divert scarce funds from development to defense. Any U.S. attempt to link its military supplies to Pakistan's ostensible security needs in the west is to be expected. Mr Bhagat now has the U.S. defense secretary, Casper Weinberger, assuring India that the U.S. aid would not adversely affect the military balance in the subcontinent. Quite categorically, New Delhi also won the U.S. declaration of support to its efforts for an amicable solution of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. There was no question of Washington getting involved in it. India will go ahead with its efforts at finding a peaceful political settlement.

Mr Bhagat's visit may also have clinched what is regarded as the most significant single deal on transfer of technology. That is the agreement with the American firm — Control Data Corporation — for manufacturing sophisticated mainframe computers. They are acknowledgedly the most powerful despite claims in the U.S. media that the company's entry level mainframe computers are 4 years old and use technology 10 years old. There are, of course, certain rigid terms with which India has to live, but in comparison with the 1963 agreement on Tarapur [nuclear power plant], the latest transfer of computer manufacturing technology might mark a change in the U.S. policy.

In a significant fashion, the agreed minute of the joint commission acknowledged "the continuing need for India's access to concessional finance." This seems to reflect to Mr Bhagat's plea for IDA's soft loan. If India is in a tight positon it is precisely because it has been practicing the kind of liberalization policies the West believes in.

### Junejo Pledges To Establish 'Real Democracy'

*BK141740 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo promised the nation today that he will work for the establishment of a real democracy in the country where people's rights are protected and honored. Addressing a mammoth public meeting in Karachi this afternoon, he recalled that he fulfilled the pledge made by him under the Minar-i-Pakistan to lift martial law, and God willing, will honor today's commitment as well.

The prime minister said that he is an elected representative of the people and will serve them until the next election — which will be held on schedule, God willing. There will be no restriction of any kind on anyone to take part in these elections and the people will use their right of franchise with complete (?satisfaction). He said that Pakistan emerged in the name of Islam and came into existence for the establishment of a real democratic system. Our elders struggled [word indistinct] for establishing Pakistan so that Muslims could live as an independent nation while following Islamic teachings. We have inherited this country from the Quaid-i-Azam [Jinnah] and we have to protect it with [words indistinct].

Referring to the Muslim League, the prime minister said that this is the [word indistinct] symbol of our Quaid and we will establish (?such) democracy in the country only through the Muslim League.

Referring to people who hold meetings in the name of MRD, Mohammad Khan Junejo asked what they do for the people. The prime minister advised these people to organize themselves properly under the law, adding that disorder and destruction will not be allowed. The prime ministe recalled that he and his colleagues came to power through countrywide elections and according to the wishes of people. We will not remain (?glued) to power and will hold elections on schedule, just as we restored the fundamental rights of the people who were deprived of them for the last 30 years.

The prime minister said that the people have witnessed how some leaders used to talk of democracy, but in fact they damaged it. Elections were rigged and chaos was created in the country. All this happened because those in power never wanted to give up authority, but the people removed them from power. We must learn a lesson from this. The prime minister said the Pakistanis are simple and honest, but they certainly can understand who is really in favor of democracy and who makes false promises.

The prime minister referred to the role of the people of Karachi in the movement of [words indistinct] and said that this reflects that they are ready to shed their blood for democracy and Islam. The prime minister said that he has offered a 5-point program to the nation for the socieconomic development of the country. He promised that the program will be implemented within the next 4 years.

### Libyan Executive Kidnapped in Karachi 16 Feb

*BK161530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] The deputy managing director of Pak-Libya Holding Company, Ahmad Muhammad 'Ammar, and his Pakistani chauffeur were abducted in Karachi this morning. According to reports, the incident occurred when 'Ammar left home to take his son to school on the way to his office. The kidnappers left 'Ammar's 8-year-old child in the car. Senior police officials rushed to the site immediately for investigation and began a massive hunt for the kidnappers and the victim.

### Security Tightened

*HK180600 Hong Kong Commercial Radio in English 0430 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] Police in the Pakistani port of Karachi have tightened security for Libyan nationals and officials. This follows the kidnapping of a Libyan executive by unidentified gunmen. No group has yet claimed responsibility. Security has also been stepped up around foreign missions in the city.

### Economic Organization With Iran, Turkey To Meet

*GF131438 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Feb 86 p 8*

[Article by Minhaj Barna]

[Excerpt] Karachi, Feb. 7--A high-level meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation a successor to the RCD [Regional Cooperation for Development] will be held in Islamabad to discuss effective measures to increase economic exchanges between Pakistan, Iran and Turkey.

This was disclosed here this afternoon by Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Seyyed Mir Mahmud Musavi-Khamene'i, while speaking as the guest of honour at the Karachi Press Club.

He said the high-level meeting at Islamabad on Feb. 26 and 27 will be participated from the Pakistan side by Niaz A. Naik, Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from Iran and Turkey by the Deputy Foreign Ministers.

Meeting of the officials will start consultations from Feb 22 to prepare the ground for the high level parleys.

Replying to a question he said while Iran's revolutionary Government welcomes transfer of technology it cannot accept it at the cost of its independence. He said the Western countries in their modes of aid and trade also export their harmful philosophy as well as impose conditions that are detrimental to the economic and political independence of the Third World countries. "We would rather remain without technology than accept it with conditions to the detriment of our ideology and sovereignty," he said.

Regarding the state of human rights in Iran he said all human rights guaranteed by Islam are enjoyed by the people including

the right to life and property, employment etc. He said Iranian Government is opposed to such freedom as is given to womenfolk in Western countries to exhibit their bodies. That leads to harmful consequences to society as well as to women themselves, he argued.

**Iranian Ambassador Comments**

*GF131439 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Feb 86 p 2*

[Report by *DAWN* Lahore Bureau]

[Text] Lahore, Feb 8--The Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan, Seyyed Mir Mahmud Musavi-Khamene'i, today suggested the Islamic countries not to accept any kind of assistance from the imperialist powers which infringes their sovereignty.

Addressing a special ceremony held at the Iranian cultural centre to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran, he said the imperialist powers never gave a single penny to any other country without any interest of their own. Mainly such a generosity was aimed at creating their agents in the governments of recipient countries and thus influence their policies.

Referring to the 500 million dollars U.S. assistance committeed to Pakistan for the maintenance of Afghan refugees, the Iranian envoy said it should be probed as to why the United States was taxing its people for the sake of refugees. If it was a sympathy with the Afghans aimed at helping them to liberate their country from the Soviet occupation, then why the same country was in conniving at Israel's efforts to subjugate the Palestinians, he asked.

The Iranian envoy said the imperialist powers were always trying to introduce such banking system in various countries that their replacement could have disastrous effects on their economies.

Seyyed Mir Mahmud Musavi-Khamene'i urged the Muslim countries to promote relations among themselves to get rid of the imperialist strings. He declared that his country would continue to follow a non-aligned policy and prefer to have improved relations with the Muslim countries.

Earlier, the director general, Iranian Cultural Centre, lauded the relations between his country and Pakistan and said both had the same cultural values based on Islam. The warm welcome accorded to the Iranian president during his recent visit to Pakistan manifested the love that Pakistanis have for their Iranian brethren, he said, and added that his visit had further cemented the bilateral ties.

Karachi: The Iranian Ambassador has asked Ulema and scholars in all Muslim countries to mobilise the ranks and file of their people to resist effectively the three-prong onslaught by Western countries.

He was speaking at a gathering organised by the Cultural Centre of Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi.

**Afghan Mujahidin Reportedly Kill 16 in Helmand**

*BK171540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin attacked a military airport at (Leksakarda) in Helmand Province recently, killing at least 16 Soviet-Karmal soldiers. In this operation, they shot down a helicopter and attacked several tanks. Another report says mujahidin attacked Khowst city, killing or wounding 21 Soviet-Karmal soldiers. In this combat, two Karmal bases were also damaged.

**Mujahidin Down Soviet MIG**

*BK151620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin shot down a Soviet MIG fighter plane with missiles in Arghandab subdivision in Qandahar Province. It is reported that the crew of the plane were killed.

Another report says mujahidin made a surprise attack in Qala Nau, the capital of Badhisat Province, killing four Soviet soldiers. During search operations in the area, Soviet-Karmal soldiers shot eight citizens when they protested against the search.

**Mujahidin Missile Attack**

*BK150557 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, mujahidin attacked the 14th and 15th divisions of the Karmal regime with missiles on the 29th of last month, killing 20 Karmal troops and destroying 2 tanks.

## NEPAL

### British Royal Couple Welcomed in Katmandu

*BK171710 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Their majesties the king and queen warmly greeted Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip of the United Kingdom when they arrived at the Tribhuvan International Airport today at the start of a 5-day state visit to the Kingdom of Nepal. Their majesties the king and queen had received the royal guests at the VIP lounge of the Tribhuvan International Airport. A 21-gun salute was also presented to [words indistinct] Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion. [Word indistinct] also offered bouquets in welcome to the royal guests. At the functions, royal salute was also presented by a contingent of the Royal Nepal Army in honor of her majesty the queen of Britain. National anthems of both the kingdoms were also played on the occasion. His majesty was with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion. Present at the airport to greet the royal guests were the prime minister, the chief justice, the chairman of the Rashtriya Panchayat, chairman of the Rajsabha Standing Committee, ministers, heads of constitution organ, high-ranking officials, and British citizens based in Nepal.

After the welcoming ceremony at the airport, his majesty the king with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her majesty the queen with His Royal Highness Prince Philip drove in state in a motorcade to the Kasthamandap [wooden building built in 17th century]. Thousands of people from different walks of life [words indistinct] along the road from Tribhuvan International Airport to the Kasthamandap (? greeted) the royal guests. At the Kasthamandap, the royal guests were heartily welcomed by the pradhan pancha [council chief] Katmandu Town Panchayat, Kamal Chitrakar, and Upapradhan Pancha [Deputy Council Chief] Mrs (Kanchanmala Chansingh). At the function, Rashtriya Panchayat members of Katmandu District, president of the Katmandu District Panchayat and members of the town panchayat were introduced to the royal guests.

Thereafter, her Britanic majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip signed the visitors book of Katmandu City. On the same occasion, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II received the key of the Katmandu city presented by the pradhan pancha, (Kamal Chitrakar). Their majesties the king and queen also witnessed the [words indistinct] ceremony. His Royal Highness Prince Philip was also present on the occasion. After the special ceremony at the Kasthamandap, his majesty the king with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her majesty the queen with His Royal Highness Prince Philip drove in state coaches to the Narayanhiti Royal Palace.

Their majesties the king and queen and the distinguisehd guests were accorded a warm welcome by people along the long route from the Kasthamandap to the Narayanhiti Royal Palace. Her Britanic majesty, who is also accompanied by the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, [words indistinct]. A state banquet is being hosted by their majesties the king and queen in honor of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip at the Narayanhiti Royal Palace this evening.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip granted an audience separately to the prime minister, Lokendra Bahadur Chand, and to the foreign minister, Ranadhir Subba at the (Jumla Hall) of the Narayanhiti Royal Palace this afternoon.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip attended a reception held in his honor by the Nepal-Britain Society. His Royal Highness Prince Philip was (?referred) to a Nepal Veterans Society. His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, who is the president of Veterns Society, graced the reception. His Royal Highness Prince Philip earlier, on arrival at the venue of reception, was accorded a warm welcome by the President of the Nepal Veterans Society Mr G.M. Thapa, who is also the president of the Youth Activities Coordination Committee. The Secretary of State for Foreign Relations and Commonwealth Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe and Lady Howe and Foreign Minister Ranadhir Subba were among the distinguished people present on the occasion. The British ambassador, Anthony Gerald Hurrel, was also present on the occasion.

The secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs of the United Kingdom, Sir Geoffrey Howe, paid a courtesy call on the prime minister, Lokendra Bahadur Chand, today. On the occasion, Mr Chand and Mr Howe discussed bilateral matters and international issues. Also present on the occasion were the Royal Nepalese ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ishwari Raj Pandey, and the British ambassador, Anthony Gerald Hurrel.

### Talks Held

*HK171450 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Excerpts] Katmandu, Feb 17 (AFP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Nepal's King Birendra met for formal talks after she arrived to cheering crowds here today on a five-day state visit.

The two met at Narayanhity Palace and discussed bilateral relations, an official source said giving no further details. The two are to have at least five meetings.

She earlier had met Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand and Foreign Minister Ranadhir Subba separately.

A state banquet was to he hosted for the royal visitors in the palace hall later today.

King Birendra and Queen Aishworya welcomed the Queen when she arrived from England accompanied by her husband Prince Philip and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Crowds estimated by observers at around 100,000 cheered the royal visitor as she motored from the airport into the capital for her second visit after one 25 years ago.

The royal guests received good luck garlands at Tribhuvan International Airport, and a red carpet welcome at Basantapur Durbar Square, featuring 16th century three-roofed monument built from a single tree in 1596.

Sir Geoffrey is to meet on Wednesday with Mr Chand and Mr Subba to discuss bilateral, socio-economic and political issues, a government official has said.

Official soruces earlier said that Sir Geoffrey's inclusion in the Queen's entourage would give Nepal a chance to discuss the future of the more than 5,000 Gurkhas in Hong Kong after the British colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Nepal, the third least developed of the world's 16 poorest countries, also is hoping the royal visit will reap increased aid from its leading European Economic Community (EEC) donor.

Another issue which might arise, the sources said, is a trade balance favouring Britain.

## SRI LANKA

### Colombo Confirms Declaration of Security Zone

*BK141105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] The government has declared a territorial security zone off Sri Lanka's eastern coast extending from Point Pedro to Komari near Pottuvil in the Ampara District. Regulations to this effect were made by President Jayewardene yesterday under Section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance.

The declaration of the zone gives security forces power to search and arrest unauthorized people and vessels found there. A competent authority will be appointed to implement the regulations pertaining to this zone. Fishing will be permitted with the approval of the competent authority but fishing craft will be [words indistinct]. Three persons will be permitted on boats with outboard motors and four persons on mechanized [word indistinct]. (?Larger) fishing operations will also be restricted to half a mile from the coast. Members of the security forces will be empowered to stop or detain any person or vessels for purposes of identification.

### Cabinet Discusses Postponement of Bhandari Visit

*BK131115 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 13 Feb 86*

[Text] Cabinet yesterday discussed the reasons which led to the cancellation of a visit to Sri Lanka by the Indian foreign secretary, Romesh Bhandari. Cabinet spokesman Minister Anandatissa de Alwis told newsmen that Mr Bhandari will be visiting Sri Lanka very soon. He further said that the government had requested Sri Lanka's high commissioner in New Delhi to brief the Indian Government about Sri Lanka's unchanged attitude regarding proposals to the solve the ethnic problem. The minister stressed that nothing has changed in Sri Lanka's position on this issue and that the government will not agree to any proposal aimed at dividing the country.

### High Commissioner Sees Indian Foreign Secretary

*BK161125 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] Discussions on the ethnic issue have resumed between the Sri Lankan high commissioner in India, Bernard Tillakaretne, and Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari. Diplomatic sources say that the two officials are due to meet again in the next few days.

Meanwhile, national security sources say that the terrorists are adopting a new technique of misinformation both within the country and outside. The terrorists now kill innocent Tamil civilians and then make statements in Madras saying that it was the work of the security forces.

### Tamil Group Releases British Journalist

*HK181338 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] Colombo, Feb 18 (AFP) — A militant Tamil separatist group today released British freelance journalist Penelope Willis after a month's captivity in northern Sri Lanka, reliable sources in the northern capital said.

Mrs. Willis, abducted by the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), was released to the custody of British diplomat Alasdair MacDermott and British Red Cross society member Sandra Singer in Jaffna.

It was exactly one month today since she was abducted while visiting northern Millaitivu. The group claimed she was a British intelligence agent helping the Sri Lanka Government fight separatist campaigning for an independent Tamil state in the north and east.

A private aircraft rented by the British High Commission here was due to fly Mrs. Willis to Colombo.

Earlier the EROS said it would release Mrs. Willis to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), but the Sri Lanka Government objected saying this would amount to recognition of the separatist group.

Colombo said it would allow the League of Red Cross Societies or Amnesty International to participate.

Miss Singer is also an ICRC member.

### Tamil 'Terrorist' Leader Killed in Vavuniya

*BK181103 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] A Tamil terrorist leader of the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam — PLOTE — was shot dead in Vavuniya in the north of Sri Lanka on Sunday. The incident occurred in a shoot out when security forces were confronted by two terrorists on a motorbike [word indistinct]. The other terrorist was also killed and the forces recovered some arms and ammuni-

tion. One civilian, who was injured in the crossfire, was admitted to hospital.

The terrorists had also attacked the security forces at (Parapdan) when they were returning after a raid on a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam hideout in Dharmapuram in northern Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Two Marxist terrorists were killed when the security forces ambushed at (Kandikulam) in northern Sri Lanka last Sunday. According to the national news agency LANKA PUWATH the troops also recovered several rifles and ammunition and a motorcycle without a number plate.

Meanwhile, three Marxist terrorists were captured by the naval detachment at Talaimannar in the north late last week. LANKA PUWATH said that the terrorists, who were arrested on the sandbank at Talaimannar, had disembarked from a trawler coming from India.

**Police Arrest Tamils Constructing Bomb**
*HK181016 Hong Kong AFP in English 1006 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Excerpt] Colombo, Feb 18 (AFP) — Police have arrested three Tamils allegedly assembling a powerful bomb here, and seven soldiers were wounded today when Tamil militants ambushed an army detail in the north, sources said.

The three Tamils, believed to belong to a militant separatist group, were arrested here yesterday while allegedly assembling a bomb that security sources estimate would have weighed over 100 kgs (220 pounds) when completed, informed sources said.

Police were searching for a fourth Tamil suspect in the case, the sources said.

The suspects were allegedly planning to blow up a state institution here, the sources said, but declined to give details because of on-going investigations.

Police last year arrested two Tamils in connection with an alleged plan to blow up President Junius Jayewardene's official residence or secretariat, located within 400 yards of one another here.

The two have been charged in court under the prevention of terrorism act.

Meanwhile, seven soldiers were wounded, some seriously, when Tamil militants today ambushed an army detail in scrub jungle in Pooneryn, in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, high ranking security sources said.

A plane was standing by in the northern capital of Jaffna to evacuate the wounded if doctors permitted it, the sources said.

On Sunday, two soldiers died and four others were wounded in another militant ambush at Iyakachchi Village in the Peninsula.

**Army Reportedly Kills 3 Civilians in Jaffna**
*BK150903 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Three civilian pensioners were shot dead by the army today in the northern Sri Lankan town of Jaffna. They had gone to the old police station building in the morning which houses a bank and a post office. As they were waiting, shots came from the nearby army camp and three died on the spot. The bodies were brought to the Jaffna hospital mortuary where they were identified.

The All India Radio correspondent, Plabon Vajumder, quoting eyewitnesses, said the firing was entirely unprovoked.

Meanwhile, the body of another person identified as Siva Shambhoo from (Innuviyo) was found tied to a lamp post shot through the head. The Tamil Eelam Army is reported to have claimed responsibility for the killing.

**Colombo Radio Report**
*BK161131 Colombo International Service in English 1130 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] Reports say that when pensioners in Jaffna had gathered at a point close to the Jaffna Fort to collect their monthly pension early yesterday morning, the terrorists had staged an attack on the army camp at ohe fort.

Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the terrorists had fired mortars in a deliberate attempt to provoke a reaction. The security forces were compelled to return fire and in the cross fire two persons were killed.

LANKA PUWATH points out that this is another classic example where the terrorists tried to create a situation to destabilize the government. In this instance even the poor old Tamil pensioners were [word indistinct].

Northern terrorists hit by growing funding problem are now trying to extract money from Jaffna residents with deposits in banks and financial institutions. According to informed sources, the terrorists are using every means possible to obtain the names of Tamils with finance at banks and private finance companies.

Several Jaffna residents and businessmen have already had to contribute to the various terrorist groups operating in the north. In some instances, these people had been taking (?various) steps and physical harm to [words indistinct] to make contributions toward the terrorist fund.

**Army Blows Up Boat Containing Explosives**
*BK151111 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] A boat containing arms and explosives (?hidden) in a secluded spot at (Kurduwakattu), Nilaveli, in the Trincomalee District was exploded by the army yesterday. An army spokesman said when the army arrived at the spot of the opera-

tion the terrorists had opened fire from a hideout, but had fled when the army returned the fire. When the army personnel observed that the boat was fitted with three powerful engines, which contained dangerous weapons including time bombs, they had destroyed it.

In the meantime, four terrorist youths have died in an exchange of fire between the army and the terrorists in Periyakulam area in the Vavuniya District. The army had also recovered a large stock of weapons and two vehicles in the skirmish.

### Colombo on Activities of 'Marxist' Terrorists

*BK171142 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] One Marxist terrorist was killed and two others escaped with injuries when security forces raided a terrorist hideout in Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday. Security sources told the national news agency LANKA PUWATH that the raid was carried out on information given by an arrested terrorist.

Meanwhile, reports say that the terrorists are using more and more of their female colleagues in their battle against the government. Two days ago LANKA PUWATH reported that 14 women terrorists were arrested. Yesterday in Muttur in the Trincomalee District two more women were taken on suspicion of being terrorists.

Marxist terrorists ambushed an Army patrol near Elephant Park in northern Sri Lanka on Saturday [15 February]. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that in the ensuing battle two soldiers lost their lives and four others were injured. Ten terrorists armed with guns robbed food items and 2 weighing scales to the value of nearly 16,000 rupees from the cooperative store at Walasena in the northeast on Thursday. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that another group of armed terrorists abducted two Muslims in Muttur in northeastern Sri Lanka on Saturday.

A group of Marxist terrorists made a futile attempt to attack an Air Force aircraft at the Kankesanthurai airport in the north yesterday. Two blasts were heard when the twin-engine aircraft was about to make its landing. The helicopter detailed on reconnaissance to cover the landing of the aircraft had spotted two terrorists running toward a car, which was parked in an area from where the blasts were heard. The helicopter crew fired at the car. Casualties to the terrorists were not known. A few days ago, the terrorists made an abortive attack on a helicopter at the Batticaloa airport in eastern Sri Lanka.

### Security Forces Build Tank Resistant to Landmines

*BK171143 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Sri Lanka's Army has built a war tank which resists landmines. The tank has been built using materials found in Sri Lanka's open market. This was revealed by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali. He said that the new tank was invented entirely by the security forces using their own engineering skill. He said to build a war tank which could resist any landmine was a great achievement especially in a time of need.

### Khomeyni Receives Guards Corps Commanders

*LD151144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1030 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Following the victories gained by the valiant warriors of Islam's army at the warfronts of "Val-Fajr-8" operations, as well as the mighty show of force by reserve Jerusalem divisions throughout the country, all regional and district commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and commanders of Jerusalem reserve divisions, officers in charge of headquarters for drafting and dispatch of forces, and a number of people from the imam's Representatives' Office were received this morning by the imam of the ummah [Khomeyni] at Ja.naran Mosque.

At this meeting, Mahallati, the imam's representative at the Guards Corps, reported the state of readiness of the corps, the unprecedented sacrifices by the warriors of Islam, and the glorious maneuvers by the Jerusalem reserve divisions, to the imam. He also conveyed the salutations of the forces' commander in chief for the special favors bestowed by the imam on the warriors at the battlefronts and behind lines.

Mr Afshar, the commander of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, then revealed the contents of a note about the readiness of all commanders and warriors of Jerusalem reserve divisions to join the combatants at the battlefronts and deal the last blow to the decaying body of the Saddamist regime.

At this meeting the imam of the ummah responded to the enthusiastic expressions of feeling by the relatives of the Revolution Committee's martyrs.

### Velayati Urges Immediate UN Condemnation of Iraq

*LD180810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*0755 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] IRNA reports that 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the country's minister of foreign affairs, sent a message addressed to the UN secretary general which stressed that the only way to move toward restoring justice and finding a just solution for the war is for the Security Council to explicitly condemn Iraq as the aggressor. Referring to the unjustifiable delay by the UN Security Council in condemning the aggression mounted by the Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati mentioned that confronting aggression the way the UN Charter emphasizes is at present an express and undoubted necessity for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Velayati, while recommending that the Security Council immediately condemn the Iraqi regime for its use of chemical weapons, repeated the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to study any suggestion put forward by the UN secretary general in connection with various issues of the war. This message is sent at a time when the Security Council is to convene tonight to review the latest developments in the imposed war.

### UN Envoy Not To Attend Security Council Session

*LD180816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*0445 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Excerpt] Iran's stand regarding the UN Security Council is that the council must condemn Iraq for invading Iran, for the deployment of chemical weapons, and for violating the 12 June 1984 agreement concerning abstaining from any attacks on populated areas. Our country's representative at the UN has announced that as long as these requests are not met Iran will not attend the Security Council sessions.

Therefore, our country's representative will not attend tonight's Security Council meeting.

### Khamene'i Meets Reservists; New Units To Be Formed

*LD141813 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1630 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Excerpts] Commanders of division and Jerusalem reserve Islamic Revolution Guards Corps were received yesterday evening by Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. The meeting got underway with a brief report by the chief of staff of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps headquarters to the president. He said: In the near future a single division, named Fajr, will be set up in each province as a reserve. As requested by a great number of Basij volunteer forces, these divisions will be sent to the fronts.

Afterwards, Mr Kahemen'i spoke and, citing the popular base of the Islamic Republic, said: Today, one of the main obstacles created against arrogant powers and our enemies is our reliance on the people.

Continuing his remarks, Khamene'i embarked on a diplomatic review of the current developments in the region following the commencement of "Val-Fajr-8" operations and, noting the support given to Iran by progressive Arab countries for its approach to the aggressive Ba'thist regime as well as the ploys by the enemies of the Islamic revolution aimed at presenting the present war as one between Arabs and Persians, he said: We called on the world to punish the aggressor, but the world failed to do so. Consequently, since the world failed to punish an aggressive regime which invaded our country and our revolution we intend to teach the enemy a lesson, so that he may no longer entertain any idea of launching any aggression against us.

Concluding his remarks, Khamene'i said: No one can question why we entered Iraqi territory. We are not used to slavery. Iraq invaded our homeland in order to create a free zone or to annex part of our territory to Iraq. At the time everyone kept quiet; international organizations did not utter a word. Having said that, we therefore consider it our legitimate right today to cross into Iraq in order to vindicate our right. We will not accept unreasonable demands. As for our nation, considering its determination and will power and its reliance on God's grace, it will not rest until the enemy is put in his place and until our nation has avenged itself.

### Musavi Views 'Iraqi-Imposed War', UN Stand

*LD171733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1630 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent this evening, Prime Minister Musavi explained the stands taken by the Islamic Republic's Government vis-a-vis the UN Security Council session concerning the Iraqi-imposed war.

The prime minister said: Unfortunately following Iraq's invasion of Iranian territory, the Security Council remained silent. Our legitimate expectation was to see the United Nations and the Security Council take a decisive stand against the invasion, in accordance with their charter. The Security Council, however, remained silent for 22 months, and only after the liberation of Khorramshahr and the defeat of Iraqi forces did it issue a resolution. So far, generally, only when the criminal Iraqi regime is threatened does the Security Council display any movement.

Mr Musavi emphasized: Any stands by the Security Council that do not condemn the aggressor, and directly or indirectly support the aggressor, do not have any validity for our nation.

The pime minister added: Only through logical action and the adoption of a decisive and earnest stand against the aggressor can the Security Council find a way to end the war; otherwise, the Islamic Republic contends that the only way to end the war and ease tension in the region is by military means.

Alluding to the point that the Security Council only meets to discuss the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran at the request of the governments supporting the aggressor, the prime minister condemned this action by such governments, saying: The unilateral stands taken by these countries are indicative of their oblivious attitude toward the importance of security in the region. If they wish to see security established in the region, then, instead of such acts, they should condemn the war-mongering actions of the criminal Saddam regime.

### Musavi Sends Messages on Iraqi Violation of CW Laws

*LD151717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1630 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Hoseyn Musavi has sent separate messages to more than 20 Asian, African, and Latin American prime ministers, informing them of the Iraqi regime's open violation of international laws forbidding the use of chemical weapons. In these messages the prime minister has reminded them that if international circles are not prepared to prevent the criminal actions of the Iraqi regime, then the Islamic Republic of Iran will take serious and adequate measures to stop the crimes against mankind and against human rights.

The prime minister also drew attention to the role played by the positive stances adopted by various countries in the world in their condemnation of the use of chemical weapons, and he noted that it is necessary to maintain these kinds of stances.

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Military Victories

*LD161339 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1030 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Speech by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to an open session of the Majlis in Tehran on 16 February — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate; thanks be to the divine succor.

Last week and, in general, during the 10 Days of Dawn our nation and the region, the world's oppressed and justice seekers, have witnessed days filled with blessings and showered with favors from the divine being. We have witnessed, during this 10-day period, the youthful and fervent expressions of the revolution. Expressions to which even our enemies have admitted and our friends have confirmed. The revolution continues to be as fresh, as what we saw 7 years ago, along with its experiences and achievements. This is an unprecedented event in history. The glorious presence of the reserve division of Jerusalem was like a gigantic rock upon which the high waste in the oceans are broken. The extraordinary and unprecedented march on the morning of 22 Bahman [11 Feb] by our nation, on the auspicious day of victory in the revolution, is really worthy of attention. We must hail this nation, pray for it, and serve it. Most important, however, is the new action by our fighters on the battlefronts, by these creators of the epic of "Val-Fajr-8."

We cannot justly express the true value of this event, but we may, perhaps, praise it, the youth, the selfless warriors, and the sacrificing combatants. Justly, and from the bottom of my heart, I admit that I am able only to express a small part of what I feel toward this movement by our youth to our nation and the esteemed members of the Majlis.

This movement has many dimensions. This operation, militarily speaking, has broken the back of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army. a number of important Iraqi brigades and divisions — on which they have invested heavily — have so far received substantial losses from which they may not soon recover. Those who are involved in military affairs and know the problems of establishing an army, a strong army comprising army corps, will easily understand. Further, the conditions are such that it has been predicted that the remainder of Saddam's quality forces will be seriously damaged in the same area. The field is such that our artillery has been turning the (?rear lines) of the enemy into hell by barrages of heavy shells delivered along the enemy's flanks over 50 km deep. It is very difficult for any units to cross this area for 50 km, [words indistinct] on some roads, and survive intact before reaching the battlefront. From the point of air strikes, our air force fighters have the best location to strike the enemy.

Once again, as during the liberation of Khorramshahr and during "Fath al-Mobin" [the operation to retake Khorramshahr], Saddam cannot claim that his forces had retreated voluntarily and evacuated the area beforehand. He must admit to defeat or he must fight: That means he must bring in his quality divisions and replace the inexperienced forces that he always keeps in the frontliens. This has precedence; these people had to take the brunt of the previous strike. Of course, we will never become elated. We will always think that whatever we gain will be

according to the will of God and thanks to his favors. Whatever he wishes will happen. God has created these conditions, and our warriors can deal heavy blows to the enemy with minimum losses.

I declare that throughout the war we have always used the minimum figures on losses so that the enemy would know that we never issued exaggerated figures. While, as you must know, the figures broadcast by the Iraqis and their supporters have occationally been 10 times more than the real figures. Suffice it to say that they lie, and that 4 days after capturing their important city, they claim that the city is still in their hands. This big lie is an example for other data and figures they have released that nobody can track down.

Politically and internationally, Saddam has been dealt a heavy blow that has shaken his supporters in their hearts — the relations between these supporters and Saddam has been shaken. Saddam has not been able to stand on his own. You can imagine a creature that has been living in a void, or standing on loose ground, a creature that has to rely on ropes thrown to him for support. Every time a rope breaks this creature shakes. How can the reactionaries of the region support this creature now, this half-dead creature? How can the world devourers, who hoped to earn huge profits from their investments in Iraq, continue their relations with this half-dead creature? This blow is an effective one. The decision on time and location was our own. This was the most important decision of the operation. You can consider the timing to be crucial when the onslaught began by harsh economic measures imposed by Islam's enemies on the Islamic Republic. [sentence as heard] The location, too, was the same spot where they had been plotting against us. It will be up to us to use this correct choice in the future. [sentence as heard]

One of the valued outcomes of this operation for those closely involved was the rare coordination between all combat forces: the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; the Popular Basij Forces; the Ground and Air Forces, as well as the Navy and the Joint Staff Command; and the Construction Jihad, which played a crucial role in the operations due to the reliance on combat engineering missions during the operations. Also included are forces that are part of other major forces, such as airborne ground forces [havaniruz], and other branches, particularly the defense units which acted in such unison, like a finely tuned machine. The maneuverability and positioning of these units — their final destination, their possible destination, the position they had to reach — shows the heart of the matter.

One of the most important gains from this operation, which will influence the world, is the exposure of the peeping eyes of the international spies. Their satellites were so confused by the tactics of our forces that the enemy still does not know from which side the blow came. They claim that the entire world is covered by their eyes every moment. Several months ago, when the marches of the Karbala convoys began, all the eyes of the world's spies and military observers were glued to this region. Their satellites took pictures every day on every part of our front, and transmitted them to the decision making centers. How surprising it is that they were confused! God made their eyes blind; even after several days the United States is still claiming that there are Iraqi soldiers in Al-Faw. It is amazing that despite intelligence gathered from spies inside Iran, enemy agents, satellites, AWACS placed at the disposal of our other neighbors, and other sources, they were so confused.

One of Saddam's biggest mistakes was his extensive use of chemical and poisonous weapons after his defeat in these operations. This took place at a time when Saddam's only weapon was to claim that he was the aggrieved party and that his territory was occupied. This weapon might have aroused the sympathy of some gullible and uninformed persons. But he doubled his defeat by resorting to chemical weapons. What is he going to tell the United Nations now? What can the United Nations say about a man who has bombed his own soldiers with chemical weapons? The bombs dropped among the warriors of Islam exploded, and the wind carried some of these poisonous clouds toward their own forces. They also dropped bombs on their own forces by mistake. This was part of God's mercy upon us. They are so confused and inept. But even last night, the United States was still saying: We are not aware of anyone using chemical weapons. They have disgraced themselves because they were lost and confused. They find it difficult not to make decisions. The blow has been so fatal, that is has confused them.

May God grant his blessing and mercy to our combatants. May he keep safe our committed forces. I must say that thanks to God, we have gained this victory with minimum casualties. God willing, they will realize their objectives, and may God grant us success to continue his path.

We advise Saddam's supporters not to continue their erroneous support for him, they should not shoulder the burden of responsibility for the continuation of this war. They must realize that the longer they intend to keep this half-dead creature, the more they will inflict damage on Iraq, on Iran, and on other people. I would like to tell the Iraqi soldiers that all their actions to safeguard that regime will not be effective; that any shell they fire toward Iran, even if it were to only cut down a leaf from a tree, would add to the list of Iraq's indemnity to Iran; and tomorrow we shall claim this from you. You will gain nothing from your movements but delay. You will only delay your own freedom. God willing you have learned a lesson, and may God help you to enrich us by not making us resort to further moves.

May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

### Cabinet Discusses Military Offensive, Budget Cuts

*LD161024 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 10 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA — The Cabinet ministers in a session presided over by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday morning discussed recent victories secured by the Iranian forces in their latest offensive.

Speaking after the session, the prime minister said that the Iranian forces are continuing their advance in Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr road, and have so far seized large amounts of munition including several intact T-72 tanks.

The Cabinet praised outstanding achievements of the Iranian forces including the Basij volunteers, the ground and air support, and air defence personnel and other forces.

The Cabinet also discussed ways of cutting down the current budget of the government.

### Further on Libyan Official's Visit to Tehran

#### Velayati, Durdah Comment

*LD142011 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, member of the Revolution Command Council and a high-ranking member of the Libyan Revolutionary Committees who headed a military-political-economic delegation to our country, left Tehran this afternoon. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Velayati.

Before his departure, Durdah gave our correspondent an interview on the outcome of his visit. He said: We achieved positive results during our meetings with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran just as we did in previous meetings between the officials of the countries. Our objectives were met in the results of our visit, thanks to our unity in belief in shared strategy and in mutual stances against our regional and global enemies.

Durdah added: The most important outcome of the joint political-military commission session was the reaffirmation of those issues upon which we had already agreed and the planning for implementing other points in the bilateral agreements. We also agreed to increase our struggles against imperialist-Zionist joint onslaughts and against those by reactionaries aimed at the region, and particularly at the revolutions of Iran and Libya. We will support all revolutonary forces in the region and other parts of the world in order to intensify their struggles against the common enemy.

Durdah mentioned the imposed war saying: As to the confrontation with Saddam's Ba'thist-fascist regime, our Iranian brothers stressed that such confrontation is against a regime and not against a nation. The liberated territory belongs to the nation of Iraq; and it is the Iraqi nation which will choose its future governing regime by relying on its will and decision. Furthermore, our Iranian brothers emphasized their intention of establishing security in the region and of upholding everlasting and close relations with neighboring countries. We consider these stands as positive and reassuring for those who might doubt the objectives of our brothers.

Commenting on Yasir's 'Arafat's request that Arab leaders stand against the Islamic Republic of Iran following the Iranian victories, Durdah said: We had told our Iranian brothers who 'Arafat was long before he showed his character clearly. Time has proved us right. If 'Arafat is capable of supporting a regime such as Saddam's then he will prove his concilatory and reactionary nature and character vis-a-vis Zionism and the United States. Anyhow, if he is able to defend the Iraqi regime, and has the resources for such acts then why does he not defend the fundamental issues of Palestine and why did he escape from Lebanon, leaving women and children in Sabra and Shatila?

He added: How can 'Arafat defend Saddam's Ba'thist fascist regime when he cannot even defend himself? As I said, he has once again showed his true identity. It is necessary for the revolutionary forces to stand with the opposite front, that is, with the front for loyal Palestinian revolutionary groups who are the true Palestinian revolutionaries.

According to our correspondent, Foreign Minister Velayati referred to the outcome of discussions with the Libyan delegation in Tehran, saying: During the meetings various dimensions of bilateral cooperation in military, political, and particularly in economic fields were analyzed. It was decided that a high-ranking delegation would travel to Tehran from the Libyan Arab republic in the near future.

Velayati added: Furthermore, the timing for such a visit by Libyan delegations is in fact a symbol of cooperation and the spirit of sympathy that exists between the two countries in their confrontation of common enemies.

He added: Libya has been standing beside the Islamic Republic of Iran since the beginning of the war waged by the Iraqi aggressive system and it has continued its steadfastness to this day. The comments made by the leader of Libya during his telephone conversations with President Khamane'i two nights ago indicate the full support of the justified and rightful stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The means for implementing that support have been reviewed during this delegation's visit. The Islamic Republic of Iran will support the Libyan brothers in their times. [as heard] The Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its support particularly in the face of the recent onslaught by the United States and the political propaganda campaigns against Libya as well as provocative military actions in the Gulf of Sidra, the Mediterranean Sea, and along the Libyan coast.

Velayati noted the bilateral cooperation with other progressive oil-producing countries and said: We have had advantageous discussions and there soon will be a tripartite session by Iran, Libya, and Algeria in Algiers. The oil and foreign ministers of the three countries will probably take part, and seek ways to defend against the plot to lower oil prices. God willing, they will achieve positive results.

#### Joint Statement Issued

*LD160006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] At the end of the visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Libyan political-military delegation led by Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, a joint statement was issued today. Referring to the meetings between the Libyan delegatioon and the president, prime minister, and foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the statement stresses the similarity between the stances of the two sides on the situation in the region and in the world. The need for expanding relations between the two countries in various areas is also emphasized.

Noting the importance of enlarging the sphere of revolutionary solidarity between the two countries and participation of all revolutionary forces in the fight against Zionism and reactionaries, the two sides stressed the need for forming an international

front for revolutionary, popular, and Islamic struggles, a front which would become a factor in promoting revolutionary activities in Palestine, southern Lebanon, and other areas.

The Iranian side strongly confirmed Libya's position in considering the Gulf of Sidra a Libyan gulf so far as the territory and the waters are concerned and as an extension of Libya under that country's sovereignty. Iran declared its unreserved support for the Libyan nation and its revolutionary leadership in confronting the conspiracies of the United States and Zionism, and stressed that Iran will stand alongside the Libyan nation with all its might.

The two sides condemned U.S. state-sponsored terrorism against the Libyan nation and its revolutionary leadership which is carried out through confrontations, provocations, and military maneuvers by the U.S. fleet off the Libyan coasts.

The two sides also condemned and rejected the U.S. Administration for blocking Libyan assets in U.S. banks and imposing economic sanctions on Libya. They described such actions as the practical manifestation of the oppressive policy of terror followed by the U.S. arrogance against freedom and independence of other nations.

The Iranian side has affirmed that the Iraqi territories are for the Iraqis, that every inch thereof is the property of its Arab and Muslim people, and that Iran has no ambitions or claims in the Iraqi territories. The Islamic Republic of Iran is only striving to establish fraternal relations based on stability and good-neighborliness with the countries of the region.

The statement has stressed the siding of the Libyan Arab people with the Islamic revolution of Iran in its confrontation with Saddam's fascist regime in order to hasten its downfall, and that the criminal war imposed by this regime upon Iran and Iraq will not end except by its downfall, thereby safeguarding stability and balance in the region.

The two sides have expressed their satisfaction with the intensified struggle of the Arab and Muslim Iraqi people against the fascist regime of Saddam and the influence of this fact on the factors of political changes in Iraq to the benefit of its national forces and in accordance with its political choices.

The two sides have also condemend the Iraqi fascist regime's use of chemical weapons.

The joint statement points out the importance of efforts to face up to the conspiracy of reducing oil prices, hatched by international imperialism, monopolies' forces, and related capitals in collusion with reactionaries. It also affirms the decisions agreed by the oil secretaries of Libya, Iran, and Algeria, which dealt with confronting this conspiracy. It also urges the rest of the countries, members of OPEC, to shoulder their responsibilities in this respect in order to preserve the unity and the interest of its people.

Proceeding from the firm principles on the Palestinian issue, the statement stresses the commitment of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Islamic Republic of Iran — proceeding from their understanding of the nature of the struggle, which is a struggle for survival and not merely a border struggle — to the liberation of all Palestinian soil, the destruction of the Zionist entity, their absolute rejection of and their serious resistance to every traitorous trend aimed at liquidating the Palestinian question, and their determination to foil the solutions proposed and planned by the United States and Zionism in collaboration and coordination with Arab reaction and the capitulatory Palestinian reaction.

The two sides once again declared their unreserved support for the Government of National Unity in Chad, and stressed that Chad is an African issue which should have an African solution within the framework of the OAU far from any interference from others. The Iranian side declared its support for the peace efforts being exerted by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Chad and its condemnation of all forms of colonialism in it and of the sabotage role that France and the United States are playing in backing the rebel Habre and in wrecking every opportunity of achieving national reconciliation and peace in this African country.

The statement salutes the heroic struggle of the Lebanese Muslim Arab people against Zionism and its agents, the struggle which led to the abrogation of the 17th capitulatory agreement, the expulsion of NATO forces, and the liberation of large parts of Lebanese territory from Zionist occupation. The statement calls for the escalation of this struggle in order to destroy totally the Zionist entity and to expel the occupiers from all the Islamic Arab territories.

The statement affirms support for the struggle of the people of South Africa and the people of Namibia against the white racist minority regime in South Africa. It condemns the policy of killing and annihilation being carried out by the barbaric racist regime against these two African peoples. It also warns about the gravity of the relations of alliance and organic bondage existing between the two racist entities in South Africa and occupied Palestine. It warns against the dangers of infiltration of Zionist influence in Africa.

The statement strongly condemns African states that have resumed diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy since this is considered harmful to the question of the joint struggle of the African people and all the people of the world.

It stresses the importance of widening the scope of economic, trade, technical, and scientific cooperation and the achievement of exchanges between them in these spheres to implement the resolutions of the joint Libyan Arab-Iranian committee.

An economic and technical delegation from Libya will soon visit the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to follow up this point. The Libyan Arab delegation expressed its gratitude and thanks for the hospitality shown by Iranian officials during its visit and described it as a reflection of the special fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries.

The two sides agreed that the next session of the joint political and military committee should take place in Tripoli in the month of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May].

### 'Frank' Talks With France Held on Overdue Loan

*LD151921 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Paris, Feb 15, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mehdi Navab left here for Tehran Saturday at the end of talks with French officials over an unpaid French loan to Iran. He was here with a group of other Iranian officials.

In a brief interview with IRNA correspondent at the airport prior to his departure Navab said that the three-day talks between Iranian and French officials had been held in a friendly atmosphere and that the two sides had held frank discussions on various issues.

The visit of Iranian delegation followed a visit by a French delegation headed by the French president's special envoy Jaques Martin to Tehran in early January for talks on repayment of France's over-due loan to Iran.

Iran granted a loan to France's atomic energy commissary in 1975 which the French Government has so far refused to repay to Iran.

According to sources Iran and France are likely to follow up talks in Tehran in a not-too-distant future.

### 1 Matryred, 6 Injured in Tehran Bomb Blast

*LD171657 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb, 17, IRNA — A 32-year-old bank employee was martyred and six people including five elderly farmers were injured in a bomb explosion in the south of Tehran, Monday afternoon.

The bomb had been placed under a waiting bench at Martyr Fayyaz-Bakhsh bus terminal in the north of Park-E Shahr (City Park).

Agents of imperialism, it is believed, planted the bomb aiming to overshadow recent victories of the Iranian combatants in the battlefronts.

The explosion damaged four buses and shattered windows of nearby offices and that of a high school.

### SAIRI Chairman Urges Iraqi Muslims To Take Action

*LD141442 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), before the sermons, referred to the marches of Iraqi residents in Iran in support of the victorious moves of the monotheistic troops in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations. While expressing his congratulations and greetings on the occasion of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, in connection with the recent victories of the combatants of Islam on the battlefronts of light and against darkness, he stated:

These victories demonstrate the fundamental meaning of the Islamic revolution, which is to defend the oppressed of the world. He stressed: The Muslim people of Iraq are joyful these days because they are witnessing the victory of the soldiers of Islam and they know that these soldiers are defending Islam and the Islamic faith. Iraqi refugees, who are to be found in all corners of the world, also are displaying their joys by marching and demonstrating, as they did in the city of Tehran today.

The SAIRI chairman, addressing the arrogance media, stated: The blasphemous regime of Saddam has been imposed on the Muslim people of Iraq and it is time for the media to stop backing this criminal and allow the Muslim people of Iraq to chose their own path.

At the conclusion of his remarks, he called for the Muslim people of Iraq, at this sensitive juncture, along with the monotheist troops and Iraqi mujahidin, to take some action and deliver the final blow to the rotten body of the Aflaqite Saddam.

### Further on Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons

#### Use of Chemical Weapons Denied

*LD150931 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb. 15, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi said here Friday that the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 offensive was only a warning that Iran will stand by its decision and will continue its defence until materialization of its conditions, including punishment of the aggressor.

Speaking to a group of foreign and domestic reporters, he said that prior to launching of the latest offensive, Iran had given necessary warnings to international organizations and countries supporting the Iraqi regime.

He also referred to the strategic and economic importance of the liberated port city of Al-Faw which is the only Iraqi access to the Persian Gulf waters.

The Iraqi regime had been attacking commercial ships and the Iranian oil wells and platforms from Khur 'Abdallah Canal, Kharrazi said.

Furthermore, he added, Iraq was using the canal for the movement of its naval forces and also for its coast-to-sea missiles. Liberation of the Iraqi port city of Al-faw has practically cut off Iraq's access to the Persian Gulf waters, he said.

He told reporters that at present the Iranian forces are supervising any movement in Khur 'Abdallah and the Iraqi naval forces in northwestern Khur 'Abdallah in Umm al-Qasr have been surrounded.

Liberation of Al-Faw has deprived Iraq from using its missile bases in the city and, therefore, has created a relative security in the Persian Gulf and countries in the area could enjoy a relative stability and be immune of tensions created by the Iraqi regime, Kharrazi said.

On the tactics of the operation, he said it has stunned the Western analysts that how [as received] Iranian forces could pass through a river with 500 to 1200 meters width. Details of the operation, he added, will never be published.

The Iranian forces could also pass a thick concrete wall which had been built by the Iraqi regime along the western bank of Arvand River, he said.

On the gains of the offensive, he said that so far 750 sq. kms land west of Arvand River have been liberated and also the city of Al-Faw and its oil installations have been taken over.

The Iranian forces by keeping the vital road of Saffwan-Basra under the fire of long-range artillery have disturbed military movement of the enemy.

On the possibility of Iraq using the Kuwaiti Island of Bubiyan, he said that the Kuwaiti Government has assured Iran that it will not put the island at the disposal of the Iraqi regime.

However, he added, "We are supervising the movements in the region." In case the Iraqi regime intended to exert pressure or attack the island, the Islamic Republic of Iran will take a necessary action.

He added that the Iraqi regime has extensively deployed chemical weapons in ongoing offensive. However, the Iranian forces this time are better prepared to defend themselves against these weapons.

On the Iraqi regime's claims alleging Iran of having deployed chemical weapons, he said that the Iraqi regime in an effort to conceal its defeats has made such claims.

However, he added, when the Iraqi forces were surrounded by the Iranian combatants, the Iraqi pilots unable to distinguish positions of their forces, dropped chemical bombs on their own troops which resulted in injury of Iraqi forces. Those Iraqis afflicted, he added, were transferred behind war fronts by the Iranian forces for medical treatment.

Although the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of deploying and also producing chemical weapons, so far it has absolutely refrained from using these weapons and has abided by international laws.

The Iranian Government in a letter to the United Nations has requested to send a representative to visit the victims of the latest Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons. If no action is taken, he added, practical measures will be taken to encounter [as received] the Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons.

He also refuted the Iraqi claim that it has launched an attack in southern Majnun and said that it too was aimed at making up for the Iraqi defeat in Al-Faw and boost the shattered morale of the Iraqi forces. What happened in Majnun, he added, was a routine operation.

### Foreign Newsmen Interview Victims

*LD171546 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA — A group of foreign reporters, film makers, newsmen and photographers Monday visited Labafi-Nejad hospital in uptown Tehran where Iranian combatants wounded in the Iraqi chemical bombardment are being treated.

Asked whether they were willing to continue the war all of the wounded combatants announced their determination to continue the defensive war until the ultimate victory of Iranian Muslim forces and the toppling of Saddam Husayn.

Another wounded combatant told reporters that he would return to the war fronts as soon as he recovered.

In response to a question by a reporter from the Swedish radio and television on the continuation of the war, the mother of a wounded soldier said that 'Saddam Husayn has martyred her nephew and wounded her 22-year-old son'.

Addressing herself to the Iraqi ruler, Saddam Husayn and his supporters, she said that she and all her family were prepared to be martyred for the cause of Islam and for Imam Khomeyni.

Later, doctors treating the chemically wounded Iranian soldiers answered the reporters' questions on the type of chemicals the Iraqi forces had used against Iranian (?Islamic) forces over the past few days.

The hospitalized chemically wounded combatants chanted slogans such as 'Down with the U.S.', 'Down with Saddam Husayn' and 'Down With the Jerusalem-Occupying Regime' calling on the reporters to reflect what they had seen and heard to their nation so that they would learn about the crimes committed by Saddam Husayn and his supporters.

The reporters, film makers and photographers were from the American CBS and other radio and television networks as well as from the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and Finland.

### Victims Leave for Europe

*LD171904 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA — Thirty-seven Iranian combatants wounded in Iraqi chemical bombardments in Val-Fajr-8 operational region, were despatched to several European countries for treatment Monday [17 February].

One of the victims, Dr. Husayn Ghafeleh Bashi in a brief interview with IRNA at the airport prior to his departure, lauded the high morale and speed of the Islamic combatants in the fronts. He noted that such criminal acts by the Iraqi forces could not damage the will of the Iranian combatants.

Dr. Ghafeleh Bashi who was treating the chemically wounded Iranian combatants near the Arvand River, suffered injuries to his eyes and skin during an Iraqi chemical attack.

On the silence of international circles vis-a-vis crimes committed by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, one of the wounded combatants said that these circles are too afraid of the superpowers to tell the truth to the world.

Another wounded victim said that the Iraqi regime has frequently proved that whenever it was incapable of directly confronting the Iranian Muslim forces, it resorted to such crimes.

The victims were despatched to Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Britain, Switzerland and Sweden.

**Musavi Visits Victims**

*LD180919 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — Another group of 15 victims of the latest Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons, arrived in Frankfurt, West Germany, and Stockholm, Sweden, for further medication Monday night.

Earlier 33 victims of the chemical bombs including three physicians were flown to Belgium, Switzerland, and Austria for hospitalization.

Frankfurt Airport police and security officers, prevented a large group of reporters, television film crew and photographers, from entering the plane and filing reports on the group of 11 victims.

The officials gave security reasons for the measure and added that an Iraqi military cargo plane was parked nearby.

Meanwhile, four victims suffering from several injuries caused by the Iraqi usage of chemical weapons in the operational area of the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 offensive arrived in Stockholm Monday night.

The Iranian students and Arab Muslims carrying placards in condemnation of the Iraqi ruler and deployment of chemical weapons had gathered at the airport and gave the victims a warm welcome. They also urged the Swedish Government to speak against the Iraqi action and condemn its usage of chemical bombs.

The students also condemned the Swedish Government's recent measure in granting a loan to the Iraqi regime which they said was an implicit backing of the Iraqi regime and would enable Iraq to run its warfare machinery.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi visited a number of Islamic combatants suffering from injuries caused by chemical weapons, at Tehran's Labafi-Nejad hospital.

The prime minister was informed of the treatment given to the victims and presented gifts including volumes of the holy Quran to the victims.

The doctors of the hospital briefed the prime minister on progress and recovery of the patients.

**Musavi Comments on UN**

*LD181316 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Tuesday that the U.N. Security Council by covering up the Iraqi aggression and failing to condemn the aggressor, has paved the way for further aggression in the region.

Speaking after visiting victims of the Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons hospitalised in Tehran's Labafi-Nejad hospital, the prime minister praised high morale of the Iranian combatants. He said such attitude, proves righteousness of Iran's stance in the Iraqi imposed war.

Referring to the statement of the victims, who told the prime minister that they would return to war fronts as soon as they recovered, the premier said that this attitude, dominant among the Iranian forces, shows falseness of evaluation of those who are after imposing an ignominious peace on Iran.

One of the victims, Musavi-Zadeh, a 26 year old Basij member who is suffering from burns, told Prime Minister Musavi he would immediately return to battlefields to fight off the Iraqi forces.

A physician of the hospital, Dr. Yazdani, told the prime minister that the Iranian physicians had full knowledge on treatment of the chemical bombs victims. Furthermore, in the ongoing operation spread of toxic chemicals was prevented, he added.

**Victims Arrive in London**

*LD181121 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 18 Feb 86*

[Text] London, Feb 18, IRNA — Two Iranian combatants severely burned by the recent Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons arrived here Tuesday for special treatment.

They arrived early in the morning by a special Iran Air flight and were greeted at Heathrow airport by a group of Iranian and Iraqi students chanting "Death to Saddam" and "Chemical Weapons Don't Work Any More."

The victims, with their faces turned dark brown from chemical burns and hardly able to keep their eyes open, were briefly seen by Iranian reporters as ambulances transferred them to London's Wellington Hospital.

No British or foreign reporters were present at the airport.

In a brief telephone interview from his hospital bed, Ebrahim Henduzadeh said with a struggling voice that he and his co-combatant 'Ali Mohammadi, both members of the Basij volunteer force, were affected by mustard gas last Thursday. He said the gas spread quickly in a white smoke after the explosion of rockets fired from Iraqi planes in the Al-Faw peninsula, liberated by the Iranian forces during the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 offensive.

The two were among 35 others who were despatched to Austria, West Germany, Switzerland and Sweden Monday.

The charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Emabssy in London, Dr. Sadatian, said at the airport that Iran would do whatever within its power to defend itself against such criminal Iraqi attacks.

"This could be a last warning to the international organizations that if these inhumane and illegal acts do not cease Iran would do everything it can to make sure the Iraqi regime will not repeat such crimes," he told Iranian reporters.

He said 10 Iranian soldiers poisoned by Iraqi attacks were expected in London for treatment but had to be hospitalized in previous stops in European cities due to their serious condition.

More victims may come here on Thursday, Dr Sadatian said.

The British press representatives were absent at the airport where Iranian diplomats said the media here were trying to ignore the issue as much as they could to prevent further hatred of the Iraqi regime by the people.

They noted that on the two other occasions when Iranian chemical warfare victims were brought to London, every means was used to minimize the publicity generated from the horrifying picture of the poisoned combatants.

## Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

### More Than 2000 Iraqi POW's

*LD141620 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Hq., Feb. 14, IRNA — According to latest reports, the number of Iraqi troops taken captive in the course of the Val-Fajr-8 operation and evacuated behind the war fronts so far, has exceeded 2,000.

The operation was launched by Iran's Islamic combatants in the southern sector of the battlefront late Sunday night, resulting in the liberation of 750 sq. kms of the Al-Faw peninsula, including the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw.

### Communique No 2381

*LD141732 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports here Friday that at least 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed during fighting with Iranian Muslim combatants in the western fronts Thursday.

In its communique number 2381, the command says that in the Majnun Islands heavy fighting and artillery duels between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued and elsewhere throughout the fronts Iranian forces pounded an Iraqi patrol unit at the Heights of Dopaza Friday forcing them to flee.

Iranian surface-to-air fire checked all reconnaissance flights of Iraqi war planes and helicopters in Piranshahr, Seyyed Kan, northwestern fronts and in Khosravi, Salehabad, Gilan-e Gharb and Mehran, western fronts, Thursday, according to the communique.

The joint staff communique says that Iranian heavy artillery fire pounded a concentration center of Iraqi troops in areas overlooking Helaleh Thursday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damage in Qasr-e Shirin and Kani-Sheikh Thursday as their motorized units and artillery positions came under artillery fire of Iranian Muslim forces.

### Hospitals, Clinics Mobilized

*LD151142 Tehran IRNA in English 1134 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA — Minister of Health 'Ali Reza Marandi said here Saturday that all hospitals and clinics throughout the country were mobilized to receive war victims adding that special wards had been allocated to possible victims of Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons.

The health minister along with several officials of the ministry visited some 13 hospitals in Tehran and the Islamic combatants hospitalized in these centers.

He told IRNA that fortunately most of the injured Islamic combatants who are hospitalized due to injuries in the successful ongoing Val-Fajr-8 offensive, had slight injuries and had already been discharged.

He also added that in the past few days a sufficient number of specialized doctors have been sent to war fronts and, therefore, there was no shortage of doctors or necessary facilities.

### Iraqi Advance on Majnun Denied

*LD151559 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters here Saturday refuted Iraqi claims that its troops had advanced to the southern Majnun Islands.

The spokesman said that in the light of the Iraqi troops recent defeats at the fronts "such claims are simply baseless" and aim to boost morale of the Iraqi soldiers.

Iranian combatants Saturday repelled an Iraqi attack on the island with their heavy fire, the spokesman said, and Muslim combatants are fully ready to face further assaults, he added.

In case such claims are put forward again, the spokesman said, the War Information Headquarters would invited reporters to visit the island themselves.

### Communique No 2382

*LD151601 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA — At least 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and scores of gun emplacements, one munitions dump, and two vehicles of theirs were demolished in the western fronts Friday as their positions were pounded by Iranian Muslim combatants, according to a military communique here Saturday.

The communique number 2382 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran says that an Iraqi offensive, backed by helicopters, on the Majnun Islands was smashed by Iranian forces on Friday.

In the southern fronts, on Friday, Iranian forces checked movements of two vehicle columns, each with an estimated capacity of 40 vehicles, near Chazzabeh, of a full-track [as received] of vehicles along the road of Amara-Basra and of another column comprising 70 vehicles in Yabis, reports the Joint Staff communique.

The communique says that elsewhere in the southern fronts, Iranian troops checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi war planes and helicopters Friday minimizing their operations.

Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi forces and on their positions throughout the fronts Friday, halted their engineering operations near Mehran and Kani-Sheykh, and forced three Iraqi helicopters to flee from the operational region. Some Iraqi patrols operating in areas overlooking Naft-e Shahr Friday were shelled and forced to flee by Iranian Islamic troops.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province were hit by long-range artillery fire of Iraqi forces Friday as a result of which some buildings were damaged.

### Shelling of Iraqi Towns Denied

*LD151704 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' HQ. Feb. 15, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters Saturday categorically denied an Iraqi claim that Iranian forces had shelled Iraqi border towns.

The spokesman said that if the Baghdad government was honest in its claim it should invite representatives of international organizations to inspect the places allegedly bombarded and inform the world of the results.

He noted that the Iraqi regime will never do such a thing, because its claim is a "pure fabrication." 'The defeated rulers in Baghdad by raising false claims intend to initiate the war of the cities,' the spokesman said.

He furthermore said that Iran warns the world public opinion and international organizations of the intention of the Iraqi regime to resume the war of the cities and that Iran has never harmed Iraqi civilians and is not going to do so.

The spokesman said that Iranian Muslim combatants are determined to defend their nation against any harm. He warned that any attempts by the Baghdad government to harm the civilians will be severely responded by Iranian forces.

Iranian Muslim troops have so far smashed all Iraqi military operations in Val-Fajr-8 theater bringing nothing but defeat for the Iraqi regime, said the spokesman. He noted that in its inhuman effort to make up for these defeats, the Ba'thist government resorted to chemical bombardment of Iranian forces but again gained nothing.

The already weak morale of Iraqi forces as a result of these defeats, completely collapsed when Iraqi war planes mistakenly dropped chemical bombs on their own forces wounding a number of them, the spokesman said. He added that now Saddam Husayn and other criminal rulers of Baghdad are expecting low-spirited Iraqi troops to work miracles.

The propaganda loudspeakers of Iraq and that of colonialism are fabricating lies in a bid to achieve victory not in the war fronts but at least with the simple-minded people.

### Khatem ol-Anbiya' Number 13

*LD151734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Text] Communique No 13 issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was tonight released as follows:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. By the night and the 10 days, O ye esteemed and selfless nation of Iran, your courageous children are resisting. While fortifying their positions they are successfully fighting the enemy who is using all in its power to pentrate the strong ranks of the combatants of Islam. Today, the defeated enemy launched three counteroffensives and each time was defeated and forced to flee after suffering great damage and heavy casualties. In the course of these counteroffensives, 105 other Iraqi soldiers were captured by the combatants of Islam and a large number of others were either killed or wounded.

Yesterday, a Super Frelon helicopter belonging to the Iraqi Navy was shot by fast flying pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was downed. In an admirable and unprecedented attack, an enemy aircraft was the target of one of the eagles of the airborne forces and was downed. The fire of the forces of Islam also downed another enemy plane in the region. The number of enemy planes downed since the beginning of the victorious "Val-Fajr-8" now stands at 23.

Carrying out mopping up operations in 4,000 hectares of palm groves situated along the western bank of the Arvand River, the combatants of Islam began burying dead Iraqi soldiers. Today, the abject enemy used chemical weapons several times and the relief forces and the antichemical defense units immediately took the necessary steps to neutralize the effects and to transfer the casualties of these chemical attacks.

Yesterday, the defeated Ba'thist commanders, in an attempt to boost the weakened morale of their duped soldiers, pretended to mount an attack in the farthest end of Majnun Islands in a propaganda manuever. But they were confronted with resistance put up by the combatants of Islam and were scattered.

### Khatem al-Anbiya' Number 14

*GF160533 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*0513 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, attention. Communique Number 14 of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters was delivered to us a few moments ago:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. You martyr-rearing ummah, you brave people of Iran, your sacrificing and brave children are continuing their fight achieving victory to be proud of.

Last night the warriors of Islam, continuing "Val-Fajr-8" operations, during brave and heavy clashes advanced several more kilometers along the road from Al-Faw to Umm al-Qasr and delivered heavy casualties and damages to the enemy. Much booty has already fallen into the hands of the Islamic warriors and many men of the Ba'thist Army of Iraq have been killed. More information about last night's operations will be published in later communiques for you martyr-rearing ummah. With the assistance of God, victory is at hand.

### Iraqi Claims of Downed Planes Denied

*LD161256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1030 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] Sources close to the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries revealed that the two planes claimed to have been downed by the Baghdad regime on 8 February in fact belonged to the Air Force of the Ba'tathist Armed Forces and were hit mistakenly by the Iraqi batteries and crashed. A report of the Central News Unit, quoting the daily *AL-AMAL AL-ESLAMI*, indicates that the people of Basra saw the downing and burning of these two Iraqi planes, which were the Sukhoy types. The eyewitnesses also said that they observed one of the pilots ejecting himself in the sky. It is necessary to explain that after the downing of these two planes, the Iraqi military spokesman for the War Information Headquarter has announced that on that day, Iran's Air Force did not have any military flights.

### Artillery Units Silenced

*GF161520 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian*
*1330 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] The victory of the brave Iranian soldiers in the Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr axis deep within enemy lines has scared all the units of the Ba'thist Iraqi Army in the "Val-Fajr-8" sector. According to an IRNA report, during last night's operations, Iranian forces, after breaking the defense lines of the infidel enemy in the Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr axis, penetrated deep into the enemy's lines and inflicted heavy losses on enemy artillery units. According to this report, since the operation began last night until now, the 673d Battalion, with 105-mm guns; the 69th Battalion, with 130-mm guns; the 82d Battalion, with 122-mm guns; and the 487th antiaircraft Battalion were totally destroyed by the fire of the Islamic fighters. During this operation 20 enemy tanks also were destroyed.

According to an IRNA report from the battlefronts, during last night's operations the 483d, 598th, and 144th enemy antiaircraft battalions stationed within the "Val-Fajr-8" operational area were totally destroyed.

According to the same report, during the operations last night and today all the enemy's artillery fire was totally silenced. Iranian fire deep into the enemy lines at Iraqi machinegun positions 688 and 672 of the Iraqi artillery resulted in their total destruction.

### Khatem ol-Anbiya' Number 15

*LD161727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1030 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Communique No 15 of the Khatem al-Anbiya' headquarters]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Dawn and the 10 Nights. O you the Muslim ummah, O you the heroic nation! The infidel-killing warriors of Islam, in continuation of the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, in the course of a lightning attack along the Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr highway and south of the salt lake, last night succeeded in advancing several kilometers along this highway. They succeeded in completely destroying an enemy armored brigade and an infantry brigade. During these proud operations, the fire of the mighty combatants of Islam destroyed 80 enemy tanks and more than 50 light- and heavy-weight vehicles of the feeble enemy were set ablaze.

During last night's victorious operations, the brave warriors of Islam also succeeded in capturing 10 sophisticated enemy T-72 tanks and 6 T-62 tanks intact. Our forces also captured intact dozens of the enemy's vehicles and various caliber mortar launchers.

During the two sorties, the fast-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked the enemy concentration points and artillery emplacements, inflicting heavy losses on the Ba'thist forces. The selfless eagles of the airborne division of the Islamic Republic of Iran also attacked a concentration point of the enemy and by destroying it, inflicted irreperable damage on the feeble enemy. The valiant warriors of the airborne division set ablaze several enemy tanks and destroyed them.

During the operations of the corps of Islam last night and today, the selfless combatants of the Navy Aviation Unit of the Islamic Republic of Iran provided cover for the engaged forces and carried out reconnaissance operations, thereby playing an effec-

tive role in the success of these victorious operations and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

Another 2,700 enemy troops were either killed or wounded, bringing to 12,700 the total number of the casualties of the Iraqi Ba'athist-Zionist Armed Forces during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations.

Right now, a heavy battle is in progress northwest of the Iraqi city of Al-Faw with full superiority of the forces of Islam. Our combatants are intensely pounding the enemy positions, equipment and concentration points and are inflicting deadly blows on them.

This morning, an enemy plane was downed in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector, bringing to 24 the total number of the planes of the Iraqi defeated Armed Forces downed in the course of these victorious operations.

May the prayers of the imam and the martyr-nurturing and heroic ummah, be the backing of our warriors. Help is from God and our victory is night.

[Signed] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

**Khatem ol-Anbiya' Number 16**

*LD161733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Communique No 16 issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters on 16 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful: by the dawn and the 7 nights. The selfless and self-sacrificing combatants of the army of monotheism continued the "Val-Fajr-8" operations and their surprise strike attack on the enemy forces, last night, along the road between Al-Faw and Umm al-Qasr west of the salt lake, causing fatal damage and casualties to the enemy. In last night's operations carried out by the forces of Islam, in addition to the damage inflicted on the enemy which was brought to the attention of our dear and selfless nation, the following damage was inflicted on the enemy:

Four enemy MIG and Topolov planes were fired on by the forces of Islam this afternoon and were downed. Also, one MIG-25 plane belonging to the enemy which intended to attack Khark Island was hit in a dog fight with Air Force fighter planes and was downed. Therefore, the number of enemy planes downed since the beginning of "Val-Fajr-8" now stands at 29.

The fast-flying eagles of the Iranian Air Force this afternoon carried out three more missions over the borders and pounded the positions and concentration points of the enemy forces and inflicted heavy casualties on them. Tens of 82-mm and 120-mm launchers, four antiaircraft guns, and a large quantity of communication equipment and light weapons were captured undamaged by the forces of Islam as booty. Heavy blows were dealt to the 1st Brigade of the Guards Army of the Republic of Iraq and with another 500 killed or wounded among the enemy forces. The number of killed or wounded has reached to more than 13,200.

At present, the combatants of Islam are establishing and fortifying the positions that they liberated in the course of today's operations. They are also keeping an eye on enemy movements and opening fire on their positions. Seek assistance from God and victory is near.

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

**Infantry Brigade 110 Destroyed**

*LD161819 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] Al-Faw Feb. 16, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants destroyed Iraqi infantry Brigade 110 affilaited to Division 26 and Val-Fajr-8 operational regional Saturday night.

It was the last remaining brigade of Division 26, dispatched by Iraqi regime to the region to prevent the Iranian advance.

Iran's Muslim combatants have also completely destroyed two more brigades of the Iraqi Presidential Guard Division.

Saddam had dispatched his elite guard division to the area to help other Iraqi troops.

Three brigades of the guard division have been completely destroyed since the beginning of the Val-Fajr-8 operation.

**Communique No 2383**

*LD161843 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA — Iraqi war planes bombarded the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Sunday inflicting casualties and losses and their artillery fire on the city Saturday destroyed 22 houses and shops and wrecked one school, says a military communique here Sunday [16 February].

The communique number 2383 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran says that Iraqi forces fired chemical shells on Chazzabeh front at 20:40 and again at 22:00 hours local time (17:10 and 18:30 hours GMT) Friday, but due to the weather condition and to the direction of the wind, no one was affected.

At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of their positions and Iraqi military hardware were set ablaze in the western fronts Sunday as their positions were shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants, according to the communique.

The Joint Staff communique says that heavy fighting and artillery duels between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops which started early Saturday in the Majnun Islands continued Sunday during which Iranian forces smashed Iraqi operations inflicting considerable casualties and losses on them.

The Joint Staff communique says that heavy fighting and artillery duels between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops which started early Saturday in the Majnun Islands continued Sunday during which Iranian forces smashed Iraqi oeprations inflicting considerable casualties and losses on them.

In Yabis and areas overlooking Nahr 'Anbar, the command says, the fire of Iranian armoured units and field artillery stopped the movements of an Iraqi tank unit with an estimated capacity of 25 tanks Sunday.

In Anjireh and areas overlooking the heights 435, an Iraqi patrol unit trying to infiltrate Iranian positions Saturday was shelled and forced to flee while sustaining casualties.

Iranian artillery fire stopped the movement of an Iraqi vehicle column near Nafr-e Shahr and elsewhere in Sumar and Helaleh halted transport of Iraqi personnel.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a military base together with a truck of Iraqi forces was set ablaze by Iranian troops Saturday.

### Iraqis Bombed Themselves

*LD170836 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb 17, IRNA — The artillery units of the Iraqi presidential guard, Sunday mistakenly shelled positions of the Iraqi infantry forces in the operational theater of the Val-Fajr-8 offensive, inflicting heavy losses on their own personnel.

A number of Iraqi POW's captured in the course of the ongoing offensive, told IRNA here Sunday that such astray actions were result of lack of discipline and order among the Iraqi forces different units of which are unable to coordinate their moves.

Due to problems in the communication system of the Iraqi forces, the shelling continued for some time, leaving behind large number of casualties and massive damages.

### Communique No 2384

*LD171625 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants responded to Iraqi artillery fire in the northwestern and western fronts and elsewhere in Sumar and Mehran shelled two trucks carrying Iraqi personnel Sunday, killing and wounding at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and demolishing several of their gun emplacements, says a military communique here Monday.

The communique number 2384 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran says that Iran's fighter bombers and anti-aircraft fire repelled all Iraqi aerial violations throughout the fronts Sunday.

In the southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian air and ground fire repulsed Iraqi war planes and twice on Sunday drove off two Iraqi manned motor boats which were attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions near the Majnun Islands and in Jofeyr.

### Khatem ol-Anbiya' Number 17

*LD171656 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' HQ., Feb. 17, IRNA — Iranian Muslim combatants smashed a counter-assaut of Iraqi forces in Val-Fajr-8 operational region monday, killing at least 500 more Iraqi soldiers and capturing scores of others from the 5th Mechanized Division.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' IRGC-Army joint headquarters in its Communique Number 17 published Monday said that the number of Iraqi casualties since the start of the Iranian offefnsive on February 9, has exceeded 14,000.

The communique said the 15th and 20th Brigade of Iraq's 5th Division sustained substantial casualties and losses in the smashed counter-assault and several of their personnel carriers were destroyed.

Seven more Iraqi war planes were shot down by anti-aircraft fire and other aerial operations of Iranian forces Monday bringing the number of Iraqi downed planes since February 9 to 36, according to the communique.

The communique further said that one more Iraqi helicopter was shot down by Iranian air support helicopters Monday. This brought the number of Iraqi helicopters downed by Iranian forces since February 9 to four.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi radar warning system in the northern Al-Faw which guided Iraqi aircraft in attacks on ships was seized by Iranian forces Monday.

Elsewhere the communique said that Iranian fighter bombers pounted the concentration centers of Iraqi troops at 14:00, 15:30 and 16:30 hours (10:30, 12:00 and 13:00 hours GMT) Monday inflicting considerable casulaties and losses on them.

Iranian forces managed to make five Iraqi tanks seized Sunday night, operational and use them against Iraqi troops, said the communique, adding that Iranian tank hunter groups inflicted heavy blows on the Iraqi armoured units in the region Monday.

## Situation in Al-Faw Peninsula Described

### TV Shows Al-Faw After Capture

*LD141829 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 14 Feb 86*

[Text] Tehran, feb 14, IRNA — As the Iranian television on Thursday night showed the Iraqi city of Al-Faw after fall to the Iranian troops, the Baghdad television showed another film portraying bodies of Iraqi soldiers as Iranian casualties. The Iraqi corpses were clothed in green jackets and special protective helmets which clearly distinguish them from the Iranian soldiers.

The newsreel Thursday of the Iraqi city of Al-Faw on the Iranian television showed fallen Iraqi bunkers, sand bags, and tens of signboards in Arabic which stood over buildings here and there in the city. The Iraqis normally pull down identifying boards before retreating from their positions, but apparently this time did not have ample time for doing so.

Among the places shown in the newsreel was one command room with four corpses scattered on the floor, and walls defiled with political slogans in Arabic.

Smoke welled into the sky from many parts of the city and here and there were smoldered Iraqi tanks, and their other vehicles.

The film also showed a group of Iraqi prisoners of war all lined in one corner. They looked fresh and happy shouting "Death to Saddam", "There is none but the only God", "Saddam is the enemy of Allah", "Neither East, nor West, Islamic Republic is the best" and "Allah-o-Akbar" (God is the greatest of all).

**'Solidarity Prayers' in Al-Faw**

*GF150618 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*0430 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, the first solidarity prayers in the liberated Iraqi city of Al-Faw were held in the large mosque in the city — which is used by the Sunni brethren, with the participation of a large number of Islamic combatants and Mr Hejazi, the Tehran deputy in the Islamic Majlis — as a symbol of greater unity with the Sunni brothers.

According to the report, the mosque of Al-Faw, which was not used by the Iraqi forces during these years of war, and the courtyard, which appeared rather dilapidated, was cleaned up by the Islamic combatants, who then installed some amplifiers on the top of the minarets of the mosque. One of the combatants then recited Koranic verses, thereby creating an ethereal atmosphere. Following the afternoon call for prayers, according to Al-Faw time, the first unity prayers were led by one of the clergymen.

Then the Tehran Majlis Deputy Mr Hejazi addressed the congregation. He said: The prophet of Islam opened the door of the holy Al-Ka'bah upon his arrival in Mecca. He shattered the idols, then faced the holy Al-Ka'bah and offered unity prayers.

**Journalists Visit al-Faw**

*LD151127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1030 GMT 15 Feb 86*

[Excerpts] Our correspondent reports on the visit of foreign correspondents to the "Val-Fajr-8" operational zone:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Reporters, photographers, and film crews from Germany, France, Finland, the United States, Canada, and Syria this morning inspected the results of the victories of the combatants of Islam and the liberated city of Al-Faw and took photographs, made films, and wrote reports.

Several army aviation helicopters took the reporters and their crews across the Arvand River to its western bank.

The reporters then went toward Al-Faw, through the liberated areas, in vehicles. While going through the streets of Al-Faw they clearly saw the presence of the brave forces of Islam in the city.

The reporters then took photographs, made films, and wrote reports about one of the three Iraqi missile bases, from which Iranian ports and ships had been attacked, the Al-Faw-Basra road and the oil pipelines alongside it, the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr road, the jetties of the port of Al-Faw and Khur 'Abdallah, the common border between Iraq and Kuwait, through which the traffic of Iraqi ships has been halted because it was within range of our artillery.

At the end of the visit of the reporters, film crews, and photographers of a number of countries of the world, the beastly regime of Iraq fired chemical shells, using artillery, which landed far from the visitors, but the smoke coming from the explosion could clearly be seen.

**Correspondents Tour Area**

*LD171051 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 17 Feb 86*

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb 17 IRNA — A group of reporters of the Iranian media arrived at the operational theater of the ongoing Val-Fajr-8 Monday morning to file reports on status of Iranian forces in the strategic port city of Al-Faw, Al-Faw-Basra and Al-Faw-Umm al-Qasr roads.

IRNA correspondent filing from operational region said that oil reservoirs of Al-Faw, the port city which was liberated in the early hours of the offensive by the Islamic combatants, passing across Arvand River, are still burning.

Upon the liberation of the city, the Iranian forces started cleaning the city's mosque turned by the Iraqis into a watch tower.

Meanwhile relief workers are collecting corpses of the Iraqi forces while still a number of Iraqi soldiers who had been hidden in palm groves or in destroyed buildings, are surrendering themselves to the Islamic forces.

An Iranian combatant told IRNA that they were fully prepared to chase the remaining Iraqi forces who were fleeing towards Umm al-Qasr, adding that the Val-Fajr-8 offensive will be continued as long as the commanders deem it necessary.

The visit to the city took place after Iraqi regime claimed it had retaken it and some foreign news agencies serving interests of imperialism and Zionism had quoted Baghdad regime's allegations.

Commander of Iraq's Third Army Saturday confessed the fall of the city.

However, an Iranian commander of the offensive Monday invited foreign correspondents in Iran to make another visit to the city of Al-Faw.

**Iraq Reportedly Cuts International Telephone Links**
*LD161205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Text] Iraq's telephone links with the outside world were cut this morning. According to the Central News Unit, which quoted a source with close contacts with Iraqi revolutionary Muslims, following the victorious successes of the combatants of Islam in the "Val-Farj-8" operations and the Iraqi regime's efforts to prevent news coverage of its defeats on the battlefronts, Iraqi telephone links with the outside world were cut.

This report adds that on earlier occasions, the combatants of Islam were victorious, Iraq's telephone contacts with the outside world were also broken off.

**Iraqi VII Army Corps Commander Reportedly Dismissed**
*LD161239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 86*

[Excerpts] According to a report by IRNA, which quotes POW's being evacuated to the rear lines of the battle fronts today, the attempt by 10 senior officers of Ba'thist-Zionsit army of the Iraqi regime to halt the advancing Islamic combatants along the Al-Faw-Basra and Al-Faw-Umm Al-Qasr roads was defeated.

According to the same report, Brigadier General (Shukat Ahmad 'Ata) the commander of the Iraqi VII Army Corps, has been dismissed following the defeat suffered by units of the VII Army Corps. There are no details of his fate.

Meanwhile reports from Basra and Abu al-Khasib indicate that military and security forces of the Saddamist regime stationed there have taken extraordinary measures, halting privately-owned cars to allow the large number of ambulances carrying Iraqi dead and wounded from the "Val-Fajr-8" operations to pass through. According to the same reports, hospitals in Abu al-Khasib and Basra are filled with wounded, and dozens of helicopters are evacuating the injured from Basra to other cities.

**'People's Fedayeen' Member Interviewed**
*PM141655 London MORNING STAR in English 14 Feb 86 p 2*

[Interview with "Organization of Iranian People's Fedayeen (Majority)" Politburo member Mehdi Fatapur by Roger Trask: "Revolutionary Struggle in Iran" — date, place not given]

[Text] [Trask] Could you briefly outline the history of Organization of Iranian People's Fedayeen [OIPF] (Majority) and its general activities today?

[Fatapur] Our organisation was founded 15 years ago in February 1971, and all through the '70s the Fedayeen played a very active part in the anti-Shah struggles.

Scores of our leaders and activists were killed during the course of these struggles. In the uprising of February 1979 which toppled the Shah's regime, our organisation played a very significant role.

It played a decisive role in preparing for the uprising and in disseminating radical anti-imperialist slogans among the masses.

On the day of the uprising, thousands of Fedayeen, who had gathered to celebrate the anniversary of their organization, rallied to join the air force officers who had rebelled in support of the revolution, and thus initiated the uprising.

After the revolution, the organisation succeeded in extending its influence and becoming a force with large-scale popular support.

Although in the course of its ideological development in the post-revolutionary years a number of groups broke away from the organisation, none of them managed to attract more than a small percentage of members and supporters, and the process of the expansion of the organization continued.

In the 1980 Parliamentary elections in Iran, the organisation's candidates polled nearly one million votes, the third largest vote after the government and the People's Mujaheddin.

In these years, our influence among the working class increased and the workers' proportion of total membership was drastically increased.

In 1983 the regime started its campaign of extensively suppressing the organisation, arresting activists and members.

Until that period, although we were officially allowed legal and open activity, all manner of pressures were exerted on us and scores of our members and activists were already in prisons.

But after the 1983 onslaught we were subjected to an all-out campaign of suppression. Three years ago when the comprehensive attack on the Tudeh Party of Iran and our organisation was launched, the most important task facing us was to safeguard the leading bodies and cadres of the organisation, to protect the various branches and district organisations and to provide the necessary conditions for the continuation of their activities.

However, all efforts of the regime to destroy the leaders of our organisation and our organisational networks and to severe our line of communication have been frustrated.

The central committee organ of the OIPF (Majority), *Kar*, is the only opposition paper which is widely published and distributed nationwide. Scores of publishing cells in the various towns and cities carry out this task.

Leaflets and tracts are distributed in circulations of several hundred thousands. The expansion of our propaganda activities disprove the regime's claim of crushing or rendering ineffective all the left political organisations. Our activities play a major role in mobilising the anti-war movement.

Today, the working-class movement is the strongest section of the mass movement and is at the centre of the attention and activities of the OIPF (Majority) and the Tudeh Party of Iran.

While the Islamic Republic regime suppresses any independent workers' organisation, clandestine workers' cells play an effective

role in organising the workers' movement.

The OIPF (Majority) actively strives for the establishment and strengthening of these cells. The clandestine workers' cells have played a determining role in organising dozens of strikes and protests this year alone.

[Trask] What have been the consequences of the Iran-Iraq war? What is the position of the OIPF (Majority) regarding this war and how is this reflected in your policy of mobilising the people?

[Fatapur] The Iran-Iraq war was started by Saddam Husayn's regime of Iraq with US instigation, and it was continued by the Islamic Republic regime.

Today after all this bloodshed, the insistence of the leaders of the Islamic Republic to continue the war renders peace impossible.

This war serves the interests of US militarists and reactionary forces in Iran and the region alone. US imperialists have used the war as an excuse to step up their military presence in the region.

During the years of the war, rightwingers in Iran succeeded in attacking all the gains of the revolution and adopting a policy of suppression against all the national and democratic forces.

The war has strengthened Iran's economic dependence on the imperialist monopolies. It has left over one million killed and maimed in Iran alone.

It has already cost the Iranian economy over $250 billion. Two-thirds of the budget is directly or indirectly allocated to the war. The people are opposed to the war. Their protests against it are expanding and intensifying daily.

Young people are refusing to go to the war fronts. This year there have been many demonstrations against the war and the Khomeyni regime in the face of savage suppression by the Pasdarans (Islamic Revolution Guard Corps).

Our organisation has played an active role, through its extensive propaganda against the war, in organising these protests. Peace is now the most fundamental demand of the Iranian people.

[Trask] Recently a number of leading members and activists of your organisation were executed. What is the reason behind the intensification of the executions?

In recent months, the Khomeyni regime has executed scores of fighters for democracy and a better life. In September and October alone 120 were executed. The regime has executed some of the leading members and activists of our organisation in recent months.

Among these were Comrade (Mohammad Reza Ghebraii), alternate member of the politburo, and Comrade (Raziyeddin Taban), alternate member of the central committee of the organisation, both of whom had been in prison and under intense torture for the past three-and-a-half years. Other imprisoned leaders of the organisation are under the same threat.

Against a background of deepening crisis and intensified popular discontent and protests, the Islamic Republic regime has resorted to an even more barbaric campaign of repression against the mass movement and the democratic parties and organisations.

The new wave of executions proves that the regime is weak and ineffective. Execution of political prisoners only stirs up the hatred of the people toward the regime and strengthens the determination of the revolutionaries to continue fighting to overthrow the Khomeyni.

[Trask] What are the prospects of unity between the opposition forces in Iran, and what are the obstacles to such unity?

[Fatapur] The main danger threatening the progressive-democratic movement of the Iranian people is the differences among the progressive political organisations and the absence of a united front of the national-democratic forces which could lead the mass movement.

Disunity among the democratic forces has already dealt severe blows to our people's struggle against Khomeyni, and the Islamic Republic regime has reaped the greatest benefits from it.

We believe that in spite of all the difficulties we should continue to endeavour for the formation of a united front and not lose a moment.

Our Organisation and the Tudeh Party of Iran have drafted a programme for the united front. The interests of all the strata of the peoples have been reflected in this programme. We have declared our readiness to discuss any proposal that the other opposition forces may put forward. Unfortunately, the necessity of unity has not yet been recognised by the other political forces.

Last year after negative internal developments in the People's Mujaheddin Organisation (PMO), and the exacerbation of differences among the national-democratic forces, the PMO rejected all our proposals for joint action against the Khomeyni regime and, by attacking us and other progressive organisations, increased the obstacles to unity.

[Trask] What do you expect of the British labour and progressive movement in solidarity?

[Fatapur] Unfortunately, the British government is helping the Islamic Republic regime by exporting arms and strategic commodities to Iran and is helping the Khomeyni regime to continue the war with Iraq.

The British labour and progressive movement has already played a very effective part in exposing the crimes of the Islamic Republic regime. A British public opinion should be further mobilised to stop arms exports to Iran.

The reflection of the struggles of the Iranian workers and toilers in the progressive press, alongside the building of British public support for the struggle against the Khomeyni regime, will also strengthen our fight.